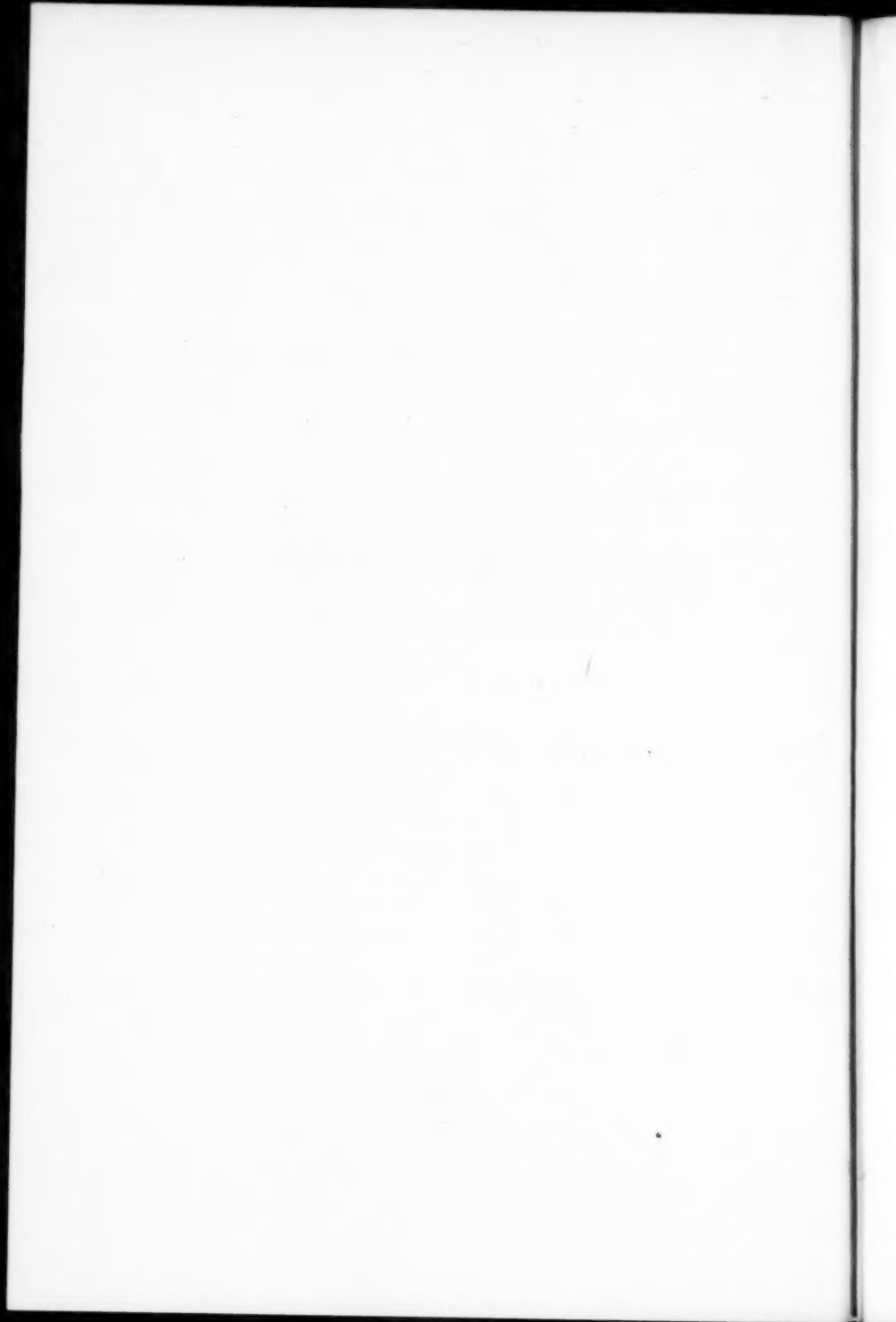


# MINNESOTA HISTORY

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## THE MINNESOTA LUMBERJACKS<sup>1</sup>

This is a rather difficult subject to write a story about, for the lumberjacks we have known were composed of all kinds of men — good, bad, and indifferent — from all walks of life, and they represented many phases of human character. As a class or type they were unique and peculiar to the lumber industry; their general traits were similar, but they differed individually in intelligence, morals, and habits as much as do men in other lines of endeavor. In the Northwest they were known as lumberjacks, but in Maine and eastern Canada, where lumbering was first carried on in America in a large way, they were called shanty men or woodsmen, and the forests or lumber regions were known as the bush.

In the early days of logging in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, the lumberjacks who worked in the woods, on the drives, and in the sawmills were largely of Scotch, Irish, or French extraction, but in later years Scandinavians were added to this list. The Scandinavians were a beneficial adjunct to the lumber business here, as lumbering was almost an hereditary occupation with them. They were descended from a long line of ancestors who had lived for centuries in northern Europe, where it was necessary to endure the hardships of a rigorous climate and to understand woodcraft from its many angles.

The old-time lumberjacks were mighty men in many ways, mighty of bone and sinew, hardy, alert, self-reliant, resource-

<sup>1</sup> This paper was read on January 19 at the seventy-sixth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society. The author derives his knowledge in part from personal contact with the lumber industry and in part from interviews with old lumbermen, particularly Mr. Fred W. Bonness of Minneapolis, who has been in the lumbering business in Minnesota since 1876 and has been connected with the industry since 1868. An extensive list of old-time lumber firms which logged on the Mississippi and its tributaries, compiled by Mr. Orcutt in connection with the present study, is in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

ful, and they possessed great courage and endurance. Nothing was too hazardous or difficult for them to attempt and they knew the forests as well as the husbandmen knew their farms.

These men were bound together in a sort of fraternity with no written code or ritual, but with an understood bond of brotherhood. They would fight at the drop of the hat for each other, or in defense of the weak, or for what they conceived to be the right, and they were a bad lot to have as enemies. They had great respect, amounting almost to reverence, for a good fighter or for a man of great physical prowess. Almost every camp had a bully of whom the men were very proud. As a rule they were loyal to their employer and they were above the average in honesty.

A logger after securing, either by purchase or under contract, a desirable tract of timber proceeded in the early fall to make his arrangements for a winter's logging. In the early days there were no graveled or paved highways leading away into the north woods. The roads then were mere trails and hard to travel over. Instead of automobiles and motor trucks run by gasoline, the motive power was either the horse or the ox, and the faithful ox team (Buck and Bright) was the lumberman's stand-by. Oxen could be depended upon to haul loads over almost any bad road even to a greater extent than could horses. The oxen were "slow but sure," as the saying goes.

The next move after securing the stumpage, as the tract of timber was called, was for the operator to hire his crew of usually fifteen to thirty men, buy his temporary supplies, assemble them, load his wagons, bid good-bye to civilization, and wend his way toward the land of the lofty and majestic pine. The supplies consisted of necessary equipment — provisions, grain for the teams, "wanagan" supplies, and blankets. The equipment was composed of logging sleds, carpenter tools, axes, saws, chains, bolts and clevises, necessary iron for repairing sleds, horse and ox-shoe nails, and usually



a complete blacksmith outfit. Provisions or "grub" consisted of *plenty* of navy beans, salt pork, corned beef, brown sugar, flour, blackstrap or New Orleans molasses, dried apples, tea, coffee, and vegetables — when they could be had — such as potatoes, rutabagas, cabbage, and beets. The wanagan supplies were Mackinaw clothing, pants and jumpers, cotton overalls, underclothing, socks, mittens, boot packs, larri-gans, rubbers, smoking and chewing tobacco, pipes, and the like. "Wanagan box" was the name of the store of merchandise described above. This merchandise was generally in charge of, and dispensed to the men by, either the foreman or the cook. The keeper of the wanagan was called the "wanaganeer." An account of the purchases of each individual was accurately kept and the amount of the purchases was taken out of the time checks at the end of the season. Only enough provisions and grain for the teams to last until sleighing was taken on the first trip in, for after that time these things could be hauled up river by "tote-team" for much less expense. (The tote-team was the team that made regular trips a couple of times per week down river and back, hauling provisions for the crews and grain for the teams at the camps.) With this slow-moving caravan it took several days for the outfit to reach its destination.

The crew generally "hoofed it" along with these loaded ox teams, and it was a bedraggled and tired company that finally landed at the proposed site of the lumber camp. Upon their arrival these hardy men of the forest discovered that they were not the first adventurers to invade this wilderness, for others had preceded them during the summer months and put up sufficient wild or marsh hay to supply the stock with coarse food for the coming winter. This item of hay was not at all unsatisfactory to the crew, for a portion of it could be and was utilized to advantage for making their bunks or beds more agreeable places to sleep in.

The first and most essential thing to be done was to build a comfortable and roomy camp for the crew to live in and to

erect hovels for the horses and oxen. The walls of all these buildings were made of even-sized logs, cut to the right lengths, smoothed up or sometimes barked or peeled. These logs were placed one on top of another until the required height of the wall was reached. The logs were saddled at the corners of the buildings so that they would lie firmly and they were placed as close together as possible so that there would not be much of a space between them. The spaces were then chinked with pieces of split wood and over these chinks and all around them the spaces between the logs were pointed up with sticky or adhesive clay mortar mixed with marsh hay. This mortar would become dry and seal the cracks so well that the cold winter winds could not penetrate into the camp or hovel. After the walls were up, if there were no boards to be had, which was usually the case, the roof was made of poles covered with marsh hay and a goodly layer of earth. Sometimes pine or cedar "shakes" or splits about three feet long were made and fastened on top of poles running lengthwise of the building, the roof being given the necessary pitch and care always being taken to have the shakes lap well at the ends and the breaks between them well covered, somewhat in the same way that shingles are usually put on roofs; there were no roof boards such as are required for shingles, however. These shakes were split with a tool called a frow. Roofs were also often made of troughs. The troughs were made by splitting a log in two, hollowing out the flat side, placing the first troughs side by side with the trough or hollowed-out side up, and covering the space between them by the same kind of troughs with the hollow side down so the cracks were completely covered. This kind of roof was protection against rain but it was not so easy to calk it up so as to keep the cold out.

The floors were usually made of what were called "punchings" (puncheons). Punchings are made by splitting straight-grained logs and edging them up nicely. They are then laid down on stringers, the flat side up and the top or

flat surface adzed off so as to make the floor smooth. Floors were sometimes made by putting straight poles down on stringers and adzing off the top side to make the floor level. The tables and the benches for seats were often made out of these punchings in the same way, that is, by adzing off the top surface to make it smooth. Of course in later years sawed lumber was used for all these purposes. The sleeping quarters or bunks were made out of poles placed lengthwise along the sides of the camp and divided into spaces large enough for two men to sleep in, uppers and lowers, like Pullman sleepers. Possibly Pullman got his idea for his sleeping cars from some old-time lumber camp.

A big cast-iron or sheet-iron stove in the center of the camp together with the cook stove at the back end of the camp furnished plenty of heat to keep everybody comfortable during the coldest weather. The walls, roofs, and floors of the hovels for the stock were built in practically the same manner as were those of the camps, except that less care was taken in their construction. The hovels, however, were made roomy and warm. A good teamster would not stand for a poor place in which to stable his team. The water supply was generally taken from a nearby brook or lake, but if this was not practicable a well was sunk close to camp and the water was either pumped or brought up with a large bucket attached to an old-fashioned sweep by a chain or rope. The sweep was suspended over the well between two crotches such as were commonly used by the early settlers.

After the camp was completed the real business began. The crew comprised a foreman who had charge of the works; the cook, who was the "king bee" around camp and who had full charge of the cooking and the store of provisions (he often kept a little toddy hid away in some hollow log or stump in a convenient place so he could nibble at it when no one was looking); the "cookee," who was the cook's helper and upon whom the supply of stove wood depended; the teamsters, who took care of and drove the teams; the choppers,

who felled the trees; the sawyers, who sawed the trees into log lengths; the "swampers," who cut the brush, trees, old logs, and stumps out of the way to make the necessary roads to the landing and in the "choppings" so the logs could be got out; the loader, who supervised loading logs on the logging sleds; the sled-tender, who handled the skids and the parbuckle or chains used to roll the logs high on the sleds; the landing man, who helped unload the sleds, marked the logs with the company's identification brand, and between times cleared the brush away along the bank so as to provide more space for logs; the blacksmith, who repaired tools, sleds, and other implements, and attended to shoeing the horses and oxen; and finally the utility man or stable boss. He was a jack-of-all-trades, doing everything from picking over beans for the cook to barbering. The barbering was usually done on Sundays. He had a monopoly on the barber business but foolishly did not accept pay for his work. His barbering was done gratis and he was very proud of his work in this line. Some of his hair cuts were unique, to say the least, and the faces of some of the men, after being shaved by him with his dull razor, looked like raw beefsteak.

One of the first things the cook provided, after the camp was completed, was a "bean-hole." A bean-hole was a hole or trench dug in the ground either in the cook shanty or out in the open. This hole was made large enough to hold a large cast-iron bean kettle and a bed of live coals. Before putting the kettle of beans in this hole or trench, the cook or cookee would build a big fire of hardwood logs, usually birch or maple, in and over the hole, keeping it going until a good supply of live coals was made and the ground thoroughly heated. The beans, after being thoroughly soaked in cold water, were put into the kettle together with a goodly supply of salt pork and quite a portion of blackstrap; salt was added to get the right flavoring, and the kettle was filled nearly to the top with water. The regularly provided cover, which

made the kettle dust and ash tight, was securely fastened over the top and the kettle was placed in the bed of coals in the trench. It was completely surrounded with these coals, and more wood was added to the fire. The beans were usually started in the evening, and by the time breakfast was ready in the early morning there was a bounteous supply of the most delicious baked beans that were ever served on any table. No one knows what real baked beans are until he has eaten them cooked in this way.

A story about a French lumberjack used to be told which ran somewhat like this. It seems that he had been fed upon beans so long and so regularly that he became "clide" (cloyed), or tired of them, so he thought he would quit his job at the camp and go down the river. The foreman wanted to know his reason for quitting and he said, "John, ze cook he make-a-ma tire, she think we not know what is ze good grub and she have ze bean and ze doughnut on de tab every d——n day so I leave-a ze whole d——n camp and go home to me Rozie." It was unusual for the men to tire of either the baked beans or the doughnuts, and they both were on the "tab" (meaning table) nearly every meal all winter.

The rules around camp had to be obeyed to the letter. One was that the crew "turn in" promptly at nine o'clock every night but Saturday; another was that they get up promptly when the cook called in the morning. The teamsters were called every morning except Sunday at four, so that they could feed and take care of their teams and have them ready to hitch up as soon as breakfast was over at five or five-thirty during the winter. The rest of the crew were called about one-half hour later. Everybody was supposed to be in the woods and ready to go to work at daylight. Sometimes the woods were a couple of miles from camp and that meant starting pretty early. At noon lunch was provided at the works by the cook or cookee or both and was partaken of around a big camp fire which was also used to boil the coffee.

The men stayed at the woods until dark and then made their way to camp and had supper, which was usually served about six o'clock.

Evenings were spent around the faithful old heating stove in drying wearing apparel which had become wet during the day, and in visiting, singing, or telling stories; but when the hour of nine came, silence reigned supreme. On Saturday evenings there were no restrictions, and the boys almost always had a "stag" dance, the music for which was supplied by some one of the crew, usually a Canadian Frenchman who could play old-fashioned jig tunes and hornpipes on a violin. Some of those Frenchmen could dance, clog, or jig "to beat four of a kind."

The choppers were the men who felled the trees and they had to be expert in their line for the trees had to be felled so they could be got at easily with the logging sleds or, if they were being skidded out, so they could be got at with the "go-devil." Besides this the trees had to be felled so they would not lodge in other trees standing nearby, and so, when they struck the ground, they would not break in two and spoil a saw log. These choppers knew how to fell the trees and they could make them fall in any direction. This was done by cutting a notch or "calf" in the tree on the side towards which they wished it to fall, and then by sawing into the opposite side with a crosscut saw until the blade of the saw was far enough into the tree so that an iron wedge could be driven in the gap behind the saw. They would saw awhile and then drive the wedge further in, keeping at it until the tree was lifted over toward the side where the calf had been cut. When the tree was sawed nearly through it would fall just where the men wanted it to.

The go-devil mentioned above was usually the crotch of some hardwood tree. The front end was where the two branches had grown together and these branches were cut off about six or seven feet from the crotch, forming runners. A beam was fastened across from one prong to the other two

or three feet from the front end so logs could rest on it. An auger hole was made through the front end of the go-devil so a log chain could be securely fastened to it. These go-devils were extensively used in handling logs in the woods for shore timber and short hauls, but they were not practical for long hauls. For such hauls what was known as logging bobsleds were used.

The logging sleds were from six to six and one-half feet wide, with runners five to six feet long and about three inches thick. In the early days, if shod at all, they were shod with maple or other hardwood shoes; but later on these shoes gave way to malleable cast-iron shoes flat on the bottom, and eventually the iron shoes were made half round. The bobs were fastened together by a short tongue in the back bob and a hook-like iron, called a goose-neck, which was attached to a ring or clevis at the back of the center of the bunk of the front bob. The front bob was provided with a long tongue so the pole team could guide the sled. On good roads the average load of a four or six ox team from the stump to the landing was about three thousand feet.

The modern sleighs were more pretentious, as they were used to haul from "skidways" instead of direct from the stump; consequently there was more attention paid in making good roads from these skidways to the landings, and much larger loads could be hauled. When this was done logs were hauled from the stumps on go-devils to central yards called skidways, rolled up on stationary skids, and loaded onto the logging sleds off of these skids. This was a great improvement over the old way and facilitated the handling of logs. The logging roads to the landings were better constructed for hauling large loads after this innovation; the ruts for the runners were cut out and made smooth and when necessary were iced by sprinkling water in them at night and letting it freeze. If they filled up too much with ice it was cut out with a horse-drawn machine provided with knives shaped somewhat like an old-fashioned gouge. This machine was made



for the purpose of doing this work. It left the ruts shaped like the half-round steel or iron shoes on the runners of the logging sleds. The newer sleds were seven to seven and one-half feet wide and the runners were about seven feet long. The bunks or bars were about nine feet long and the so-called rockers on each bob from twelve to fourteen feet long. The bobs were attached to each other by cross chains extending from the back part of the front bar to the noses of the runners of the hind bob. These chains were hooked into eyebolts on the front bar and fastened to the runner by a sort of clevis. They could be lengthened or shortened so as to accommodate any length log, and they took the place of the old-style short tongue and goose-neck.

At the skidway the road and "round turn" for the loading team were called a "cross haul." Extra sleds were provided so the loads of logs were always ready for the teams on their return from the landings. This prevented the delay of the teams in having to wait for loads to be put on the sleds. Where the road to the landing was mostly down grade, trailers were sometimes used so that a team could haul two or more loads at once. On reaching the landings with the loads of logs the landing man supervised the unloading. The landing man had to know his business pretty well, for it was up to him to expedite the unloading and pile the logs as high as possible so as to conserve space on the landing. All the logs put on the landing had to be scaled by the state. The surveyor-general supplied a deputy who attended to this scaling and he had to make daily reports to the foremen of all the companies unloading at the landing and also make reports to the head office in St. Paul. The scalers were supposed to be on the landings nearly all the time, especially if more than one company was landing there.

The logging operations were kept up all winter until the ice broke up in the spring, after which time arrangements for driving were begun. Much of the equipment used in the woods could also be used on the drive. The drivers would



often occupy the camps used in the winter until the upper ponds were cleared of logs.

Many dams were constructed upon the small streams where logging was done. These dams were necessary, for without them there was no way of holding and conserving the water when the freshets came in the spring. The dams were built along the lumber streams a few miles apart. They caused ponds to form above them and the logs were sluiced through the gates of the dams and driven down stream to the next pond, the process being repeated until the logs were got into the big streams like the Mississippi. The dams were watched night and day by men selected for the purpose.

The tools used for driving consisted mostly of "pick-poles" and "cant-dogs" or "peevies." The drivers were provided with warm clothing and driving boots. The driving boots were of heavy calf or cowhide with thick soles. The soles were made thick in order to hold firmly the calks which were inserted into them. The calks were little steel pegs about three-quarters of an inch to an inch long, one end being sharp-pointed, the other blunt and either square or round. Holes were made in the thick soles of the boots and the blunt end of the calks driven or screwed in. These calks prevented the driver from slipping and falling into the "drink" when he was riding the logs.

After the main body of logs was sluiced out of a pond there were always some stragglers which perhaps were grounded and did not float out. These had to be brought out by the drivers, who waded out to deep water dragging the logs along to where they would float. This was the clean-up or "bringing in the rear," and was called "sacking." This was not pleasant work, for wading in that ice-cold water for hours together was very disagreeable. It often happened that a coating of ice nearly an inch thick formed over the water in the pond during the night. The men could not wait for the sun to melt this ice, so they broke it with their peevies or cant-hooks ahead of them as they were towing

straggling logs out to deep water. Such logs as these were apt to be "drummers," that is logs of over size, and it took a good depth of water to float them.

Some of the drivers were very dexterous in riding logs. They could get on top of a log that but little more than carried their weight, start it revolving, and cuff it with their feet until it made many revolutions per minute, then stop it from revolving almost instantly and hold it stationary in the water, keeping their equilibrium during the whole performance. Another favorite stunt was to ride a log through the sluiceway, where, as it descends, it stands, part of the time, at an angle of from thirty to forty-five degrees. Some drivers were about as dexterous in performing their tricks on logs as the western cowboys are in riding bronchos.

If water were scarce and the ponds low, the crews could work only an hour or two each day in sluicing; the rest of the time was spent in waiting to get another head of water. What were called log jams were sometimes formed in the rivers. The logs would pile up on top of each other so high and so tight together that they would almost dam the stream and cause the water to rise several feet and back up for long distances above the jam. It took experts to locate the key logs and release them so the drive could continue down river. Sometimes dynamite had to be used to accomplish the purpose. Lunches were carried out from camp during the driving by the cook and cookee and served about in the same way as during the winter months in the works.

Drives ended when the logs were delivered in the boom on the big river. The northern limit of the boom on the Mississippi in the old days was at Lily Pond near Monticello. It was afterward extended to Brainerd and then to Grand Rapids. The boom company took charge of the logs after they were in the boom; it handled them and delivered them to the "sorting gaps," where they were taken over by the sawmills. The sorting consisted of identifying the different markings that were made on the logs at the landings up river, separating

them into different groups, and placing them in their respective gaps. The logs were all scaled again at the sawmills to ascertain the amount of shrinkage since the scale was taken in the woods. There was apt to be shrinkage, for many of the logs became water-soaked and sank to the bottom of the Mississippi. They were called deadheads, and the bottom of the Mississippi River even now is lined with these dead-head logs.

The sawmills either bought the logs outright or they manufactured them into lumber under contract. In early times the sawing was done with circular saws, which meant running the log forward and back for every board taken off of the side of a log; but some ingenious fellow eventually invented the band saw which would cut several boards at every trip of the carriage. The manufactured lumber was sorted into grades and placed in the yards near the mill in great high piles and later sold and shipped to dealers all over the country, some of it probably even going to foreign countries.

The manufacturing of lumber was a wonderful business at one time in Minneapolis, Anoka, and other points farther north; but this industry now is practically a thing of the past, as the supply of timber in this state is approaching exhaustion. In Minnesota the annual cut of lumber in the old days ran into the hundreds of millions of feet. The only large bodies of timber now standing in the United States are on the Pacific coast and nearly all these are owned by large lumber corporations, many of which gained title to their property by questionable methods and at very low prices. Like many of the natural resources of our country, the ownership of timber slipped away from the government into corporate or private hands, and the people today are paying the penalty for their carelessness in allowing this to be done by having to pay exorbitant prices to these monopolies. Many of the natural resources would have supplied the needs of our people for many years to come, had they been conserved and

cherished as they should have been. The waste in lumbering in the old days was simply enormous, for only the finest timber was taken and the rest of it was usually destroyed by forest fires or otherwise.

In later years when logging firms had large bodies of pine timber to get out they would build railroads from the main streams or from the sawmills to these bodies of timber and haul the logs out with trains of cars run by steam power. These roads were called "steam logging roads" and in some cases afterward became part of some railroad system. Within the last few years caterpillar tractors have been used by some loggers for motive power in hauling logs from the skidways in the woods to the landing or the sawmills. A ten-ton tractor can haul about thirty to thirty-five thousand feet of lumber to a load on level iced roads, taking several sled loads at one time. All but the first sleighs are called trailers. These tractors will make four round trips per day on a five-mile road, whereas a four or six horse team can make but two round trips per day and haul only about five thousand feet to the load.

The old-time lumberjacks were a homogeneous class of beings. Their kind has practically become extinct in this part of the country. As a rule they were illiterate and of mediocre intelligence; yet they were quite proficient in their line of work, canny, and generally trustworthy, industrious, generous, and dependable. Their lives were as much of an annual routine as is the work of a bank teller. They were faithful workers, but insisted upon fair and humane treatment. They demanded that they be well housed and fed while in the woods, but they would stand any hardship when occasion required it. It was not infrequent for some of them to go up river in the early summer to help put up hay, cutting the marsh hay with scythes, carrying it together with poles, and putting it in small stacks. The process of gathering the hay together was called poling. After haying season they would help build the camps and hovels when necessary; they

would put in dams and swamp out the main roads to the landings. They would continue at this work until the ground and swamps froze and the logging could begin. They then took their places in this work and were still on the job when the ice broke up in the spring and the driving season was at hand; then they would help drive the logs down river to the boom.

All these months they would practice thrift and not patronize the wanagan more than was actually necessary. By the time the logs were safely in the boom they had fat bank rolls, sometimes amounting to as much as several hundred dollars, although the wages were small, ranging from fifteen to thirty dollars per month in the woods and around a couple of dollars per day on the drive. Instead of putting their money in the bank or investing it in good securities they spent most of it for liquor. They would remain full of liquor usually until their money was all gone and then away up river they would go and follow the same routine the next year. Their idea of enjoyment during the few weeks they spent down river was to stop at some cheap lodging and boarding house and keep full of liquor as long as they had a cent. Unscrupulous saloon keepers helped to keep them full so that it would be easier to filch their money from the poor fellows. After their money was exhausted they were kicked out of the "joints" where they had spent it. They presented a sorry spectacle with their bewhiskered, dirty faces, their swelled heads, and their depleted purses. Their fair-weather friends had deserted them and they felt, if they had any sense of feeling, as though they were nothing but warts on the face of society. About the only thing they could do was to go back to the woods and hate themselves for another eight or ten months, and then repeat the operation.

A story used to be told about a lumberjack who quit his job in the woods and came to the Twin Cities. One day he was on an interurban street car traveling from St. Paul to Minneapolis. The street car conductor asked him for his

fare and the lumberjack said he had no money. The only thing then was to stop the car and put him off. A gentleman who was standing on the back platform heard the conversation, and as the lumberjack was getting off this gentleman said he would pay the fare, which he did. The lumberjack was a likely looking sort of fellow, and so the gentleman said to him, "How is it, with so many jobs to be had, that you are not working and in possession of some money?" The lumberjack replied: "Well, stranger, I will tell you how it is. I left Cass Lake yesterday morning and I had \$62.65 in my pocket; before getting on the train I bought a couple of quarts of good liquor and paid two dollars for them. I drank this on the way down. I got into a poker game on the train and lost ten dollars. I went to sleep after finishing the liquor and did not wake up until I got to St. Paul. I got off the train there, went up town, met some good fellows, and that evening I spent fifty dollars with them and I'm broke." "Yes," replied the gentleman, "you said you had \$62.65 to start with; you paid two dollars for liquor, lost ten dollars playing cards, spent fifty dollars with your friends; this makes sixty-two dollars. What did you do with the sixty-five cents?" "Well, by gosh," he said, "I must have spent that foolishly."

Not all the so-called lumberjacks were of this type, for many of them were homesteaders or farmers who worked in the woods winters and on the drive springs, to replenish their exchequers in order to make improvements on their farms. Then there were others, the urban laborers with families, who followed this business to support their families at home. Far too many, however, were of the first type.

The lumber industry has been a very important one in Minnesota's history and many of those engaged in it have become big men in the state's commercial and political life. The laborers or lumberjacks were a necessary part of this industry and contributed in a large way to the development

of our commonwealth. They are worthy of recognition and there should be some plan set in motion for this recognition.

In the Capitol grounds at Austin, Texas, a bronze statue of the cowboy to immortalize his memory is being erected. It would seem that to erect a statue on the grounds of our state Capitol in memory of the lumberjack would be a fitting thing for Minnesota to do and in keeping with other sentiments we hold sacred. It would be in memory of a class of men who did a great deal towards building up Minnesota and her institutions. The cowboy is no more typical of the cattle industry of Texas and the western plains than is the lumberjack of the lumber industry of Minnesota and the Northwest. They each represent a phase of frontier life, and such monuments, with the proper inscriptions, will do more than almost anything else to teach future generations the importance of these great industries at the time that our early history was in the making. No doubt the lumbermen of Minnesota would help finance such a project.

WRIGHT T. ORCUTT

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

## THE 1925 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The exchange of ideas, the giving of practical suggestions, the airing of new projects, and the development of plans for coöperation are some of the fruits which conferences among interested people — historians, statesmen, and business men, for example — not infrequently produce. Conferences on local history work in the state have proved their usefulness in the past and have now become an established feature of the annual meetings of the Minnesota Historical Society. On January 19, at 9:30 A. M., as the opening session of the seventy-sixth annual meeting, the fifth conference of Minnesota local history workers was held in the auditorium of the society's building, with an attendance of nearly sixty individuals representing local history activity and interest in at least fourteen counties: Chisago, Dakota, Carlton, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Olmsted, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, Red Lake, Rice, St. Louis, and Waseca.

The general theme about which the discussion centered was "Making Local History Vital to the Community." The presiding officer, Mr. William E. Culkin of Duluth, president of the St. Louis County Historical Society, in opening the conference, directed attention to the importance of local history and declared that the people generally are very much interested in it, notwithstanding the doubts of some local history workers. The St. Louis County society holds four program meetings a year. The attendance is not large, Mr. Culkin said, but usually there are "from thirty to fifty splendid men and women who take an interest in history and love it." Newspaper publicity carries the story of the society's activity to all parts of the county and this stimulates interest on the part of the people — the common man and woman — in the past and their relation to it. Each person has his own point



of view, and few persons will agree; but the historian takes all into account and should attempt to enlist the aid of all. Membership will grow as the society's work develops — the St. Louis County Historical Society now, after two years of activity, has about 175 members. The society tends to become a "center of county historical feeling," and to function properly it must be doing business all the time. Money received from dues is supplemented by an appropriation of \$2,500 received annually from the county. This enables the society to carry on its work satisfactorily, with its rooms open regularly, and its constantly growing collections of library and other material available for use. A broad view must be taken of the limits of a county society's work, for many topics of general regional interest are of first importance to such an organization. Although county lines were artificial in the beginning, administration and history have now made them of very real importance. To succeed in local history work it is necessary "to keep hammering away with faith and enthusiasm." Careful planning is important in making programs. "Get papers written early," said Mr. Culkin. "Get people to do work when they can, so that they can do their best work. Don't hurry." The speaker closed by describing the method used by his society in indexing its material.<sup>1</sup>

The second speaker, Mr. Lynn Sheldon of Redwood Falls, county agricultural agent for Redwood County, spoke on the subject of "The Farmer and Local History." Mr. Sheldon explained that he had become interested in the subject because it was necessary in his work. An adequate understanding of his own county's problems is impossible without knowing its historical background, he said. Steps toward the organization of a local historical society were taken a year or two ago, largely as a result of the interest of the county farm bureau. No organization has yet been effected. The speaker

<sup>1</sup> A brief account of the St. Louis County Historical Society's system of "historical bookkeeping" is in its report for 1923, printed *ante*, 5: 436-442.

indicated, however, that progress may be expected in the near future. He suggested that a new settler in the community, by studying its historical background, would be in a better position to adapt himself to the new conditions than if he were in ignorance of that background. History is of great value to the farmer; the formulation of economic laws, for example, is impossible without a knowledge of history; and many practical steps in agriculture, such as the regulation of crops, can be taken wisely only if the lessons of the past are learned. The speaker called attention also to the human interest of history and said that the farmers get much joy from an acquaintance with the past of their community. Collecting activities should be in constant progress in order that materials for the future historian may be assembled. In Redwood County there is need for a museum where old implements and other articles, such as early plows, ox carts, yokes, and spinning wheels, may be preserved. These things are not difficult to find but unless they are collected soon they may be definitely lost. The speaker closed by sketching a plan for enlisting the interest of the people in Redwood County in a local history organization, which he hoped might reach fruition by summer.

Dr. L. C. Weeks of Detroit, president of the Becker County Historical Society, who was unable to be present at the conference, sent a letter in which he told of the efforts made in Becker County to interest the schools in local history, described the activities of his society in collecting and binding county newspapers, and referred to its large collection of pictures and slides illustrating the county's past. Mrs. Ernest J. Stiefel of St. Paul spoke for the recently organized Ramsey County Historical Society, and explained that although it has not yet held any meetings it is making plans for a celebration to be held in March in honor of the birthday of the city of St. Paul. She also spoke of an historical map of St. Paul as a project which the Ramsey County society might attempt in the future.

Mr. Culkin suggested that local societies should hold meetings even "if there are only a half dozen people present." The important thing, he said, is not to get out crowds, but to organize the activities of the few people who take particular interest in the work. Newspaper publicity will carry the historical papers to a large audience.

Mr. Burt Eaton of Rochester spoke briefly on the situation in Olmsted County. Rochester has won a unique place in the world through the work of its famous doctors and both city and county need the well-organized activities of a local historical society. As an example of the color and interest of the community's pioneer history, he recounted the story of a frontier duel in Rochester. Mrs. Michael Dowling of Olivia, who spoke next, stressed the importance of interesting the younger people if local history is to be made vital to the community. Organization, the assembling of local history exhibits, the recording of pioneer reminiscences, and the use of pictures were among the means suggested for catching the attention and holding the interest of young people. The important thing, of course, is to aid them in understanding the vital relation of the past to the present.

In Kandiyohi County, said Mr. Victor E. Lawson, who was the next speaker, the old settlers' association, established in 1897, has been an active and useful organization which encourages the preparation of historical papers and in other ways serves as an historical society. The speaker indicated that he personally collects and carefully preserves newspapers and much ephemeral material for the county.

Mr. Frank E. Balmer, state leader of county agricultural agents, then spoke briefly, dwelling particularly upon the importance of developing in other counties of the state such projects as were under way in Redwood County. Practically all that is necessary in order to make local history vital to the farmer is to bring it to his attention. The speaker gave several illustrations of the importance of agricultural history

in the general history of a community and indicated that excellent opportunities for organization were open to Minnesota local history workers.

At the local history conference in 1922 Mr. Samuel Lord told of the work accomplished in 1919 by the Dodge County Old Settlers' Association in assembling a considerable number of reminiscent papers from old settlers, most of them having to do with Mantorville (see *ante*, 4: 251). Mr. Lord briefly reviewed the matter in the conference of this year and presented to the Minnesota Historical Society a bound volume of nearly five hundred typewritten pages, embodying all the materials gathered in 1919, with many interesting illustrations, constituting as a whole a remarkably interesting and valuable compendium of information about Mantorville. What was done at Mantorville could probably be done — and would be worth doing — in many other Minnesota communities. Mr. Lord's remarks brought to an end an unusually successful local history conference.

The luncheon of the Minnesota Historical Society to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the society was held at the St. Paul Athletic Club at 12:30 P.M., with 124 persons participating. The toastmaster, who was introduced by Mr. Frederick G. Ingersoll of St. Paul, was the Honorable Theodore Christianson, Governor of Minnesota. In his introductory remarks the Governor first gave expression to his deep interest in the work of the Minnesota Historical Society. His own forbears, he explained, played a modest but useful part in the early history of the state, and he himself has the distinction of being the first governor of Minnesota whose father was a native of the state and whose ancestors were living in the state at the time of its admission to the Union. The program of toasts which followed was intended as a sweeping survey of the period which has elapsed "Since the Foundation," that is, since 1849, when the society was established. The society, as is well known, was chartered on October 20, 1849, and formally organized on the following

November 15. Its first public affair was a meeting held in St. Paul on January 1, 1850, and its first annual meeting was held on January 14 of the same year, when a constitution was adopted. Actually, therefore, although the 1925 meeting was the seventy-sixth annual meeting of the society, it occurred almost exactly seventy-five years after activities were launched.

Of Dr. William W. Folwell, president of the Minnesota Historical Society and president emeritus of the University of Minnesota, who was to have given a toast on the subject, "In the Beginning, 1849," the Governor happily remarked, "He spent the first part of his life in making Minnesota history and is spending the last part in writing it." Dr. Folwell was unable to be present at the luncheon, but he communicated an interesting document containing a description of Minnesota conditions in 1849, which, at his request, was read by Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the society. The document in question is eminently worthy of publication and is printed in these pages under the title "Minnesota in 1849: An Imaginary Letter."

The second speaker was Dr. James Kendall Hosmer, noted historian and formerly Minneapolis public librarian, whose theme was "Through a Half Century, 1850-1900." In a delightful introduction Dr. Hosmer designated Dr. Folwell as patriarch of the Minnesota Historical Society and himself assumed the title of assistant patriarch. After a brief review of the development of the society, he drew attention to some of the major events and influences in the history of the state. Speaking of its population he emphasized the fact that the major racial streams were Nordic, drawn from northern New England, northern New York, and northern Europe. Alluding to Minnesota's early Indian and Civil war experiences, he compared the state to the infant Hercules, who was beset in his cradle by serpents and in struggling with them developed the strength which made him chief among the gods. Peaceful development followed the wars, and the speaker referred to Minnesota's growth and development not only in

"the world of economics," — mention was made of the timber, wheat, flour, and iron industries, — but also in education and libraries, and in general culture.

Dr. Warren Upham, archeologist of the Minnesota Historical Society and secretary from 1895 to 1914, then gave a brief account of the fiftieth anniversary celebration held by the society in 1899. A full account of that occasion is published in volume 9 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections*.

"The Last Quarter Century, 1900-1925" was the subject discussed by the next speaker, Dr. Lester B. Shippee of the University of Minnesota, an authority upon the recent history of the United States. When the country emerged into the twentieth century, he said, it had just come out of a "short, satisfactory, and wholly unnecessary" war, and it was brought up sharply by a set of problems which it had previously ignored. A period of soul-searching ensued and people began to probe into things which they hitherto had accepted without question. In the matter of international relations the country participated in two Hague conferences, and in the middle quarter century was preparing to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of peace with England. Then came the World War. In considering the twenty-five years which have elapsed since 1900, one is inclined to waver between the profoundest pessimism and lightening optimism, the speaker declared. The failure of mankind to profit from the past is one side of the story. On the other hand, there is ground for optimism in the fact that people seem to be evidencing an increased interest in the past, and this may pave the way to a better understanding of current national and world problems. Too much importance should not be attached to a mere quarter century, which, after all, is only a small segment in the long stretch of time in which civilization has been developing.

Dr. Buck was to have discussed the topic "What of the Future?" but owing to the lateness of the hour he contented himself with the somewhat cryptic remark, "The future will

speak for itself." Among the guests at the luncheon was Professor C. K. Webster of the University of Wales, who responded briefly to the toastmaster's invitation to speak, and touched upon the appreciation of the things of the past which, in his opinion, characterizes the American people. At the conclusion of the luncheon program Governor Christianson expressed the belief that the coming together of men and women from different parts of the state for the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society inevitably meant new inspiration and added momentum in the carrying on of historical work in Minnesota. An interesting feature of the program was a group of songs characteristic of different periods in the past, sung by Miss Hazel Ohman, accompanied by Miss Livia Appel.

About seventy persons attended the afternoon session, which convened at 3:30 P.M. in the auditorium of the Historical Building, with Mr. Victor E. Lawson of Willmar in the chair. The following address by the president of the society, Dr. Folwell, was then read by the chairman.

If the seventy-fifth year of the society's existence has been the most prosperous of all it is not because of any magic in arabic numerals, but because of the continued faithful service of our competent staff, the careful husbanding of resources all under wise and intelligent direction. The reports now to be submitted to you will justify this statement. The report of the superintendent will exhibit the activities of the society for the year — the increase of the library, the enrichment of the museum, and the unusual number of publications issued; and the report of our treasurer, Mr. Everett H. Bailey, how the funds have been distributed to the various purposes.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to express my — and your — appreciation of the services which Mr. Bailey has rendered the society as its treasurer for many years. Such services are not of the spectacular kind and are likely to be left unregarded.

My enlarging acquaintance with its affairs convinces me that if this Minnesota Historical Society is merely to carry on its present modest scheme of activities a considerable addi-



tion must be made for support and endowment. The poor, shrunken, emaciated gold dollar, ironically bearing the image and superscription of the triumphant, soaring eagle of the sky, has lost more than a third of its purchasing power in the past decade. A thousand dollars as tallied are but 635 to buy books and have them bound, and to pay salaries.

For the great future expansion of the functions of the society, which her history, her situation, and the renown of Minnesota will demand, a very great increment of income must be assured. I make no suggestion of amount for fear of being thought extreme, but leave that for your imaginations to play around. For this great purpose it seems to me we must hope for generous endowments by private citizens.

But this is no new discovery of my own. The society already possesses a permanent trust fund of about \$125,000. The accumulation of this fund is due to the foresight and prudent management of two men. Henry C. Upham was treasurer for thirty-three years, during which the fund was raised from \$1,500 to \$75,000. The remaining \$50,000 has been added by the equal care and prudence of Mr. Bailey. Let us hope that Mr. Bailey may be willing to continue in his office for many years and double the permanent trust fund.

At the last annual meeting I spoke briefly, regretting the long delay by the society in establishing an authentic, contemporaneous, and perpetual chronology of Minnesota events. I have now the pleasure to say that Dr. Upham has undertaken and begun that service. It is also his intention to compile a complete chronology from the time of the earliest French arrivals to November 4, 1924, the date on which his new record of current events begins.

After the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting and the presentation of the treasurer's report, the superintendent's report — a combined survey of the activities of the society during the past year and during the last decade — was given.<sup>2</sup> Three historical papers were then read, the first of which was entitled "Robert Dickson and the Western Bound-

<sup>2</sup> The *Twenty-third Biennial Report*, which has recently been distributed to members of the Minnesota Historical Society, embodies the material contained in the annual reports for both 1923 and 1924.



ary of Minnesota." Its author, Mr. Louis A. Tohill, instructor in the University High School, Minneapolis, has made, through a careful study of unpublished sources, an important contribution to Minnesota history by tracing in detail the career of a famous early fur-trader. It is expected that Mr. Tohill's illuminating study will later be presented in full to the readers of this magazine and it is therefore sufficient to note here that special attention was given by the speaker to the designs of Dickson upon the Red River Valley after the War of 1812. The fur trade carried on by Dickson with the Sioux Indians had been destroyed by the war and he himself was excluded from American territory. He and Lord Selkirk expected, however, that the Red River Valley would be assigned to the British by the Anglo-American convention of 1818, and Dickson intended to renew the fur trade in this region and also, perhaps, to establish a buffalo wool factory. All his hopes in this direction were blighted, however, by the cession of the valley, as far as the forty-ninth parallel, to the United States.

The second paper was Mr. Wright T. Orcutt's interesting analysis of "The Minnesota Lumberjack," which is published in this number of MINNESOTA HISTORY. Mr. Orcutt demonstrated in effective fashion the importance of what one might term historical type studies for the broader social history of the state.

The third paper of the session, on "The Influence of the Minneapolis Flour Mills in the Economic Development of Minnesota and the Northwest," by Dr. Charles B. Kuhlmann, professor of economics in Hamline University, St. Paul, was based upon an extensive study of the Minneapolis flour-milling industry, which is soon to be published in book form. As a valuable interpretation of an important Minnesota industry, the paper possesses general interest and will be printed in full in a later issue of this magazine.

A special meeting of the executive council of the society was held in the superintendent's office at 4:45 P.M., at which

ways and means of providing for the increased needs of the society were discussed. A tour of the museum, scheduled for the same hour, was omitted because the afternoon session was protracted. It should be noted that a special exhibit representing "Seventy-five Years of the Minnesota Historical Society" was on display in the museum during the annual meeting.

About 225 persons were present at the evening session, held in the west hall of the society's museum, at which the annual address was delivered by Frank H. Hodder, professor of history in the University of Kansas and president of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, who took as his subject "The Background of the Kansas-Nebraska Act." The speaker's mastery of the sources, his careful analysis and clear presentation of his subject, and his original scholarship made the address, which dealt with a notable theme, a memorable one. At its conclusion, Dr. Buck, who presided at the session, declared that the speaker's views, if accepted by historians, will revolutionize American historical thinking with reference to an extremely important development in the fifties. Professor Hodder began by pointing out that the Kansas-Nebraska Act is one of the great turning points in American history because by its repeal of the Missouri Compromise, it completed the breach between the sections, created the Republican party, and precipitated the Civil War. With respect to no subject in our history, he said, has historical opinion so completely changed in recent years. The older view, based upon antislavery propaganda, was that Senator Stephen A. Douglas repealed the Missouri Compromise in order to secure for himself southern support for the presidency and that Nebraska was divided into two territories in order that one might be slave and the other free. A reëxamination of the background of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, however, discloses the fact that the territories were organized in order to secure a northern route for the Pacific railroad, and that the division into two territories was made for the

benefit of the railway interests of Iowa and Illinois. Not only was Douglas not currying favor with the South but he would have sacrificed the support that he already had in that section had his real purpose been discovered.

The story has its beginnings in the middle forties. The question of a Pacific railroad was first raised by Asa Whitney in 1845 by a request for a vast grant of land to himself for the purpose of building a road from Lake Michigan above Milwaukee. Professor Hodder stated that he has in his possession one of the only two known copies of a pamphlet published by Douglas opposing both Whitney's plan and his route and proposing instead that the road should run from Chicago by way of Council Bluffs and South Pass to the Pacific, that the territories of Nebraska and Oregon be organized, that grants of alternate sections of public land along the line of the road be made to these territories to enable them to construct it, and that similar grants be made to Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas to enable them to build roads to connect with it. Douglas was prevented from immediately carrying out his purpose by the instruction of the Illinois legislature to support Whitney's scheme, but in 1850 he secured the adoption of his mode of building railroads by the grant to the Illinois Central and the Mobile and Ohio.

In 1848 David R. Atchison of Missouri, Augustus C. Dodge and George W. Jones of Iowa, and Solon Borland of Arkansas began agitating for land grants to their own states to enable them to build connecting roads, assisted by Douglas and James Shields of Illinois. While Douglas desired a Chicago terminal, Illinois would also be benefited by a St. Louis terminal. The grants to Missouri and Arkansas were made in 1852 and 1853, but the one to Iowa was delayed until 1856.

At the beginning of 1854, according to Professor Hodder, it seemed certain that the route of the Pacific railroad would be immediately located. Jefferson Davis, who was secretary of war and a strong friend of the southern route, had sent

Gadsden to Mexico and had secured a treaty granting to the United States the most favorable route. The surveys reported by Congress under the direction of the secretary of war were required to be submitted by the first Monday in February. The territory through which the southern route would pass was already organized and the northern route would have no chance unless the territory through which it would pass could also be organized. For this purpose Douglas, Dodge, and Atchison united to pass the Kansas-Nebraska Act. To secure its passage Douglas was forced to consent to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. To secure what he regarded as the greater end he sacrificed what he regarded as less important, believing sincerely that slavery would not make headway in this region. Almost certainly, said the speaker in conclusion, the first Pacific railroad would have been ordered by the southern route had not Kansas and Nebraska been organized. As it was, the sectional controversy prevented the location of any road until after the Civil War broke out, when Douglas' plan and route were adopted. The curious result has been that Douglas for trying to serve his section has rested under the obloquy of having betrayed it.

After the conclusion of this powerful and interesting address, a moving picture entitled "Vincennes" was shown. The film is one of the "Chronicles of America Photoplays" planned by Yale University and based upon the fifty-volume historical series known as the *Chronicles of America*. "Vincennes" is an adaptation from Frederic A. Ogg's *The Old Northwest* and gives a vivid and interesting representation of the exploits of George Rogers Clark, particularly his famous winter dash in 1779, which resulted in the capture of Vincennes, the headquarters of Hamilton, the British governor-general in the Northwest. It is of interest to note that, according to a Yale University announcement, "the minutest details of this vivid picture were referred for criticism and confirmation" to Professor Clarence W. Alvord, a member of the Minnesota Historical Society. "Vincennes" was pre-

sented by courtesy of Yale University and the Pathé Exchange, Incorporated. During the showing of the picture Mrs. Charlotte Thorn Elliott of St. Paul played a number of appropriate piano selections.

The final event of the annual meeting was an informal reception for members of the society and their friends, held in the society's auditorium after the evening session and attended by about 175 persons, with Mrs. Elizabeth H. Buck and Mrs. Clara W. Blegen acting as hostesses.

T. C. B.

## MINNESOTA IN 1849: AN IMAGINARY LETTER<sup>1</sup>

ST. PAUL'S LANDING, M. T., July 10, 1849

DEAR MARY:

It's a lively week I have had of it—no time to write. If I could have written the letter would be still here waiting for the next down boat. The trip from Galena up on the Doctor Franklin was truly delightful. I do not know how splendid the scenery along the Hudson and the Rhine may be, but it must be something exceedingly beautiful to surpass what I saw from Prairie du Chien (Dog's Prairie in English) to the Falls. At one place near here the Mississippi widens out into a broad lake, bordered by lofty cliffs or forested slopes. At the upper (northern) end of the lake is a lofty detached peak which looks so much like a barn that the early Frenchmen, who were here fifty years before the Declaration of Independence, called it *La Grange*. Close to these was a group of huts and tents in which I was told old Redwing's band of Sioux—they pronounce it *Sue*—Indians are living. If I may judge from the appearance of the individuals I saw as we passed the Indian is not an object of beauty in every day clothes.

The boat stopped but a few minutes at this place to discharge a few boxes and barrels of merchandize and went on a few miles

<sup>1</sup> This letter was written by Dr. William W. Folwell, president of the Minnesota Historical Society, to be read at the luncheon program of the society's seventy-sixth annual meeting on January 19, 1925, in place of a short speech which he had been asked to make. It is a valuable description of the Minnesota situation in 1849 and is based upon studies and an accurate understanding of early Minnesota history. The letter is so written as to be attributable to Richard Chute, one of the pioneer settlers at St. Anthony Falls. No intimation was given the audience that the letter was not an authentic contemporary portrayal of Minnesota conditions in 1849, and apparently most of those who heard it read considered it a genuine pioneer letter. The fact that Dr. Folwell had prepared several footnotes to correct "excusable inaccuracies" in the letter strengthened the impression that here was an original document. Indeed, a newspaper reporter actually described the non-existent original "yellowed with the years since 1849." *Ed.*

to New Hope on the St. Peter river just above its issue into the Mississippi. They are now trying to call the place Mendota. The big man of this little hamlet and indeed of the whole territory is Henry Sibley, who came there in the year 1834 as manager of the American Fur Company. He lives in a big stone house, near which is a huge warehouse. I found him busy taking in furs collected in the foregoing season by Indians, trappers and licensed traders. One of the traders, Renville by name, had come from a post two hundred miles away on the edge of the buffalo range. The furs when assorted and baled are shipped to St. Louis, the great fur market of the upper Mississippi, Mr. Sibley asked me to dinner, which was abundant with plenty of silver and linen and a bottle of good claret. As he was occupied with his traders he left me to be entertained by Mrs. Sibley; and I was entertained. Mrs. Sibley would be at home in any circle no matter how select. From Mendota it is only two miles or a little more to Fort Snelling, and the small village of St. Peter consisting of the dwellings and other buildings of the Indian agent, the post sutler and civilian employes around it. We had to be ferried over the St. Peter river in a flat boat. The post sutler is Mr. Franklin Steele who has been out here almost as long as Mr. Sibley. For years his general store served the whole neighborhood as well as the garrison of the fort. I found Mr. Steele a little less affable than Mr. Sibley but courteous and hospitable enough. I soon learned that Mrs. Sibley was Mr. Steele's sister and that he had two other very handsome sisters, one the wife of a doctor here in St. Paul's, the other engaged to a lieutenant of the U. S. Army named R. W. Johnson lately out of West Point and ordered to Fort Snelling. The situation of the Fort on a high and precipitous bluff was admirably chosen way back toward the beginning of the century by an army lieutenant sent up here with a small party to find the source of the Mississippi and if possible catch some Hudson's Bay traders carrying on an unlawful trade with Indians. The lieutenant — Pike was his name — without a scrap of authority bought of a small local band of Indians who had no right to sell a hundred thousand acres of land to include the site of the fort and the Falls for half a barrel of whiskey and a promise that some day the Great Father would pay them some money. I understand

that a little before the fort was built an agent came up here and paid the Indians 2 cents an acre and some more whiskey. Mr. Steele intends to lay out a city as soon as the Indians are sent off towards the Missouri, which all agree will soon take place. There is no real fortification—only rows of barracks inclosing a parade ground, and a rather formidable round tower at the gateway, loop-holed for musketry.

Of course my next place to see was the Falls of St. Anthony, only seven miles away to the north. Mr. Steele was good enough to send me on in a two horse spring wagon with a young man named Stevens, now in his employ.<sup>2</sup> He came up here after the close of the Mexican war in which he had been a quartermaster. I have not yet met with such a genial joyous fellow as this Stevens, who believes that the greatest city in the Union will grow up around the Falls. Of the Falls one may quote Dr. Johnson's remark on the Giant's causeway "Worth seeing, but not worth going to see." I was disappointed in the scant height of the Falls, and the small volume of water, it may be unusual in this dry season, but the wooded banks of the narrow gorge below and the prairie above sloping back in terraces made a charming composition.

The village of St. Anthony is on the east side of the river. It is divided by two islands which are so near together they come near being one. There was little to attract settlers there till about a year ago when Mr. Steele got a sawmill he had built into operation. It is a small affair with a flutter wheel on a horse dam in the smaller, east, channel. The local humorist says of it "the saw goes up in the morning and comes down at noon." Still in the course of the season it turns out all the lumber just now needed. A number of frame houses have been built out of it, the first one by Ard Godfrey who came all the way from the state of Maine to build the sawmill. I forgot to tell you that on the west side of the river there is what may be called an already old saw mill built by soldiers from the fort years ago. There is also a very small flour mill later built to grind feed for

<sup>2</sup> The Stevens mentioned was without doubt John H. Stevens, who built the first house on the west side at the falls. He was commonly called Colonel Stevens, because he was one of Sibley's militia colonels in 1858.



the animals of the garrison at the Fort.<sup>3</sup> The only persons I fell in with at the Falls whom I would care to meet again were a storekeeper named William Marshall and his unmarried sister Rebecca. He is not especially handsome but she is. They live in rooms over the store on Main Street. Mr. Marshall is or has been a surveyor and some time last year he laid out for Mr. Steele a village called St. Anthony Falls. Miss Rebecca helped him make the map.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Marshall tells me he thinks of moving his store to St. Paul, because it is the larger place. I did not venture to advise him, but if he had asked me to, I would certainly have told him to stick by the Falls. The enormous power running to waste in these falls will be captured and set to work some day and it will work day and night, year in and year out, and the great big, rich city of this region will be at the Falls of St. Anthony. A man who was far up the river last winter tells me that there is pine timber enough close to water to last this whole northwestern country for three hundred years, if not longer.

The stage from the Falls to St. Paul is a two seated open wagon, drawn by two horses, but it landed me safely, after the eight mile drive partly along the wooded bank of the river and partly over a stretch of prairie fairly ablaze with wild flowers. I found a room at the Central House partly log and partly frame on the edge of the high bluff near the steamboat landing, and set out to view the town. The site is about as unpromising as you could well imagine. After you climb a steep bluff from the riverside you have before you a series of humps running up to high hills a mile back. Between two of the humps there is a large duck pond. At several places the rock comes up three feet above ground. They tell me that the first settlement was made almost by luck. I will inquire about that and tell you more. A townsite has been laid out but the houses, some with bark or slab roofs, look as though they had been built wherever a level spot of land could be found. However there is plenty

<sup>3</sup> The flour mill had been equipped with "bolts" for making flour.

<sup>4</sup> Rebecca Marshall, as Mrs. Rebecca Marshall Cathcart, is still living in St. Paul. Her "Sheaf of Remembrances" in the *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 15: 515-552, is full of details of life in "the little French and Indian village" of St. Paul, as she calls it.

of fine scenery, free to all who have eyes to see with. Please don't imagine that the people living in these humble shacks are all of them cave men. There are some men and women here you could hardly match in Fort Wayne or any other city. One of them is a Vermont Yankee named Rice. I don't know that I have yet met just such a personality. Courteous, suave, even gracious, he makes friends with everybody; but he's no sycophant. For some years past he has been associated with Mr. Sibley at Mendota. But they did not get along well together and Mr. Rice has just moved here. The expectation is that he will make things hum. He has bought a big piece of land and will put up a big hotel—big for the place. So far Mr. Sibley has had things his own way in politics, but I should not be surprised if Henry M. Rice should some day relieve Sibley with all his stately dignity, of his labors in public station. In one of his journeys to Washington Mr. Rice made the acquaintance of a young Southern lady. In another journey this very year there was a wedding and the happily wedded pair are now living in one of the better shacks of St. Paul's—I say happily wedded, because she seems to have the same social gifts as distinguish her husband. With her beauty and graces she will soon be the social leader of this capital city.

Yes this is the capital city of the Territory of Minnesota, made so by an act of Congress passed on the 30 day of March of this year. It seems like a joke that President Taylor has appointed as governor a Pennsylvania lawyer, an ex-member of Congress, named Alexander Ramsey when there were many men out here who would not have declined the honor. I doubt if there is much truth in the yarn I heard at the hotel table that Mr. Ramsey would not accept the appointment till he made sure that he would not have to go round the Horn to get here. The new Governor came up near the end of May. Mr. Sibley had written him to come on to Mendota and be his guest. He stayed with the Sibleys nearly a month before he could find a house to live in. But he was over here attending to business meantime. On the first day of June he proclaimed the Territory to be organized, and a few days later he issued a proclamation dividing the territory into three judicial districts. Three whig judges had come up with him. Now you will have to take my word that the

Territory of Minnesota is bigger than all New England, New York and Pennsylvania put together. In another proclamation issued three days ago Governor Ramsey divided up his immense empire into seven counties with Indian names. He also ordered an election of delegates to convene as a legislature early in September. From what I have seen of Governor Ramsey I like him. He has not the stateliness of Sibley or Steele, nor the genial voice and smile of Rice, but he is sturdily built, dignified enough, even-tempered and perfectly frank in expression. If he decides to burn his ships and stay here for good he may play a large part in the history of the territory he has come to rule over. But he will have to wait for he is the only Whig in the whole territory except the few federal officers who came up with him. In one respect Mr. Ramsey is very fortunate. Five years ago when he was 29 he married a Pennsylvania girl of 18. Although still young, she is really queenly in appearance, very well informed and altho' domestic is interested in her husband's public duties. Mrs. Rice may have to tolerate a rival as social leader in the Capital city. I have had a most interesting trip so far and shall have plenty of things to tell you about when I get back to old Fort Wayne.

Ever your faithful Dick.

P. S. The boat was late coming from Mendota and is delayed here. I will tell you about two or three notable characters I have met with or heard about. One of them is a young Presbyterian minister from Philadelphia who came this last spring. He is a man of talent, but somewhat erratic. He preached a sermon on the text "And he slew a lion in a pit on a snowy day." He has got a school started in what was a blacksmith shop. For seats they have ranged some planks on pegs driven into auger holes in the logs. He will build a small wooden church on a lot given by Mr. Rice.<sup>5</sup> Another very notable personage is James M. Goodhue who came up here in the spring and started a weekly Democratic paper, called the Minnesota Pioneer. He is well educated a very facile writer, with a vein of sarcasm which shades off into gall. Of one visiter to the territory he

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Neill did not start the school. Miss Harriet Bishop did that two years before he came.

writes, "He stole *into* the Territory, he stole *in* the Territory, and he stole *out* of the Territory." My guess is that Mr. Goodhue is likely to lead a stormy life here.

There is another man, whom I have not seen, but his name is more heard on the street and in the hotel than that of any other. His name is Brown.<sup>6</sup> He came out to Fort Snelling with the first troops to garrison Fort Snelling. He was a minister's son somewhere in Pennsylvania, ran away from home when 14 years old and enlisted as a drummer boy in the Army. Some say he was rather a fifer, for he soon became principal musician and leader of the garrison band. After seven or eight years he quit the army and began a series of enterprises much too many to tell you about if the steamboat would wait till sundown. For a while he kept a grocery—that means grogshop in this region—on the east bank of the Mississippi. He did not "introduce liquor into the Indian Country," that would have been felony, but an Indian could slip over to his grocery in a canoe and get a well-watered drink of whisky. Brown—Joe Brown everybody calls him—has started a farm on Grey Cloud island in the river a little below this place, has been lumbering over on the St. Croix river, served a term in the Wisconsin legislature when this part of Minnesota was St. Croix County, Wisconsin. Last year there was a convention held over at Stillwater on the St. Croix river—folks there believe their town is to be the great city—as a starter towards getting the new territory set up. Brown was a delegate, and his experience in the legislature came in handy. He made most of the motions, and headed the important committees. It was on his motion that in the petition to be sent to the president the special request was made that the new territory be named Minnesota.<sup>7</sup> Brown had been out here fifteen years before Mr. Sibley came and knows more of men and things here than . . .<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Joseph Renshaw Brown was his full name.

<sup>7</sup> If Mr. Brown had known the Dakota language as well as Gideon or Samuel Pond he would have spelled the name of the territory *Min-ni-sota*. "Minne" is a mere nickname in English.

<sup>8</sup> The letter ends abruptly without proper signature, apparently because of a lost sheet.

## RADIOGRAMS OF MINNESOTA HISTORY

### SIOUX VERSUS CHIPPEWA<sup>1</sup>

When history begins to record the doings of the Minnesota Indians, the Dakota or Sioux were in full occupation of the whole north central part of the state from the Red River to Lake Superior, with strong villages in the vicinity of Mille Lacs. They were a forest people, depending upon their canoes for transportation, living on the abundant game of the region, and holding their lands by their great strength in war. Their weapons were of stone, bone, and copper. To the great village of Kathio on the shores of Mille Lacs came the intrepid explorer and trader Du Luth, and the captive missionary Father Hennepin. A well-known canoe route from the Mississippi to Lake Superior passed through the heart of the Sioux country and gave a ready outlet for the war parties of the Sioux against the Chippewa.

Moving gradually westward along the southern shores of Lake Superior came the Chippewa, indirectly reflecting the pressure of white settlement along the Atlantic coast and unable to maintain themselves against the firearms of the eastern tribes. The Chippewa, almost marooned for a time on Madeline Island in Lake Superior, eventually secured firearms also and turned them against their powerful neighbors, the Sioux, to the west.

Shortly before 1750 the storm broke. The murder of some friendly Chippewa visitors to the Sioux village of Kathio during one of the periodic truces gave the signal for the attack. After rallying to avenge the murder, the warriors from the Lake Superior region swept down in overwhelming force upon the settlements, struck the upper end of the un-

<sup>1</sup> A radio talk originally given on March 17, 1924, from the Twin City broadcasting station WLAG.

suspecting Kathio near the base of Cormorant Point, a short distance above the present village of Vineland, and then moved south and east through the Indian village. Terrific was the slaughter as the conquering Chippewa blew up lodge after lodge with gunpowder, and so destroyed the luckless Sioux who had taken refuge there. The end of the second day of fighting saw the invaders completely victorious and the poor remnant of the Sioux fleeing panic-stricken down the Rum River. The battle of Kathio marked the end of Sioux domination in northern Minnesota and the beginning of the occupation of a new region by the Chippewa, parts of which they still retain.

Although they retired to the southern part of the state and became essentially prairie Indians, the Sioux never forgot this crushing defeat and constant efforts were made to recover a part of the lost territory. Some of the conflicting claims of the two tribes came to light in 1835 when the government attempted to survey and mark a boundary line between them, an enterprise which was finally abandoned. There was a constant raiding back and forth as the years passed. Truces were frequently made and members of the two tribes smoked and hunted together for short periods, but invariably some reckless brave, infuriated by real or fancied wrongs, would strike the blow which renewed the slaughter.

With the coming of the fur-traders to the Minnesota wilderness a peculiar situation developed. These white men used their influence for peace,—since peace meant more Indians engaged in hunting, more peltries in the spring, and greater profits,—yet they put into the hands of the Indians the very weapons which would enable them to carry on their warfare. Guns, powder, and lead for hunting fur-bearing animals might just as well be used for human game, and skinning knives were very effective for taking scalps. Indeed the coming of the traders into the region near the mouth of the Minnesota River supplied the Sioux with firearms and enabled them to stop the Chippewa advance.

Upon the establishment of Fort Snelling in 1819 the United States government began to take a hand in Indian affairs in the Minnesota region and to assert itself to counteract the British influence over the tribes of the Northwest. An Indian agency was also established under the jurisdiction of Major Lawrence Taliaferro of the United States army, as a means of checking intertribal warfare. The joint control over Sioux and Chippewa by one man, however, while it had its advantages, involved the enforcement of regulations which would insure safety to the Chippewa while on peaceful visits to the fort and the agency and would prevent these people from using their safe-conducts as a cover for hostilities.

On one such occasion during the year 1827 the Chippewa on a visit to the fort met the Sioux chiefs in council at the agency, smoked the pipe of peace in the afternoon, and agreed to a permanent peace. That very evening the Sioux fired into the tepees of the Chippewa and killed seven persons. An immediate demand upon the Sioux for the guilty Indians by Colonel Snelling and the Indian agent brought about the surrender of five warriors to the Chippewa for punishment by running the gauntlet. A line of Indian warriors with loaded rifles was drawn up on the plain outside the fort, and at a given signal each captive was released for a wild dash towards safety. None reached the goal and a salutary lesson had been given to the Indians with reference to the intention of the government to maintain peace.

The record of this Sioux-Chippewa feud as kept by the missionary Samuel W. Pond for many years is a dreary story of murders from ambush, surprise attacks, and treachery. A Chippewa raid into Sioux country would net a scalp or two one season and result in a counter raid the next year, probably with like result. Naturally many of the casualties were among women, but no difference was made between men and women in the taking of scalps.

The murder of nearly all the members of a Sioux hunting party in April, 1838, near Lac qui Parle, by Hole-in-the-Day



and his warriors, after the Chippewa had been hospitably entertained by their victims, resulted in an attempt by the relatives of the latter to assassinate that chief when he visited Fort Snelling the same summer. One Chippewa of Hole-in-the-Day's band was killed, but the chief himself escaped. This last-mentioned murder, however, was indirectly responsible for the greatest defeat that the Chippewa ever suffered at the hands of the Sioux.

Late in June, 1839, Hole-in-the-Day and nearly a thousand Chippewa from the bands on the upper Mississippi made their way down to Fort Snelling in an attempt to force payment of their annuities there instead of at La Pointe, Wisconsin, the regular place. Taliaferro refused to make the payment and started them back as soon as possible for fear of trouble, after exacting a promise from the Sioux to refrain from war if the Chippewa committed no hostile acts. On July 1 the Chippewa started home in three bands via the Mississippi, the overland route to Rum River, and the St. Croix River. Two members of Hole-in-the-Day's band, however, sons of the man killed at Fort Snelling in the previous year, lingered behind, killed and scalped a hunter of the Lake Calhoun band on the south shore of Lake Harriet the next morning, and made their escape. By noon of that day the Sioux warriors were massing at the Falls of St. Anthony and making their plans for revenge. The war party divided, one taking the trail of the Rum River Chippewa, and the other that of the St. Croix band, since both of these groups of Chippewa would be unaware of danger.

At dawn on July 4, 1839, both war parties struck their victims, the first about the mouth of Rum River and the second near the site of the old prison at Stillwater. As the result of the slaughter the Chippewa lost nearly a hundred killed in the two battles while the Sioux lost less than one-fourth of that number. Yet despite this victory Cloudman deemed it wise to abandon the village at Lake Calhoun and



move to the Minnesota River country, since retaliatory attacks were bound to follow.

Counter raids followed in quick succession during the next few years, and in the summer of 1842 the Chippewa of the St. Croix planned a deadly blow at the Sioux village of Kaposia on the west bank of the Mississippi within the present limits of South St. Paul. The attackers hid in the deep ravine near the mouth of what is now called Battle Creek, east of the Mississippi, to await a proper moment for the attack, but they could not resist the temptation to kill a Sioux woman or two just in front of their position at Pig's Eye Lake. Despite the drunken revel in which the Sioux warriors of Kaposia were engaged, the sound of the guns brought them to their senses and they rallied to the fight. After a running fight lasting several hours the Chippewa drew off defeated, although the Sioux loss was heavier than that of the invaders. Troops from the fort arrived after the fight was over.

Even after Minnesota had become a territory and boasted of its capital, St. Paul, painted warriors roamed the streets with scalps at their belts, and in 1853 a skirmish took place at the corner of Third and Jackson streets. A party of Chippewa ambushed a group of Sioux coming up from the river to trade in the stores of St. Paul. In the firing several Sioux were wounded, one mortally, and the lives of whites were endangered. A cavalry patrol from Fort Snelling pursued the Chippewa and killed one man.

With the opening up of the lands west of the Mississippi to settlement the opportunities for intertribal fighting became fewer and a closer check was kept upon the movements of the Indians, who were assigned reservations and virtually compelled to live on them. Much bitterness was aroused against the whites who were taking the good lands away, and events shaped themselves for the Sioux Massacre of 1862.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, JR.

## MINNESOTA AS SEEN BY TRAVELERS<sup>1</sup>

In the spring of 1887 Charles Beadle, an Englishman, made an American tour in the course of which he visited the South, crossed the continent, went north to British Columbia, and returned to the East by way of Manitoba and Minnesota. His primary object was "to see what our go-ahead friends on the other side of the Atlantic are like in their own country, and to pick up as much useful information as I can from them." During his travels he faithfully recorded his impressions in a diary, which was privately printed after his return to England. One passage, in which he tells of his journey through Minnesota in the latter part of May, 1887, is an interesting brief record of the things which an intelligent foreigner, who was making a brief survey, considered noteworthy in the state, and it is herewith reprinted. A copy of Beadle's book is in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

### AN ENGLISHMAN IN MINNESOTA, 1887

[Charles Beadle, *A Trip to the United States in 1887*, 157-164 (Privately printed, n.p., 1887)]

*May 29th* [1887] — On the train from Winnipeg to St. Paul we met a very intelligent Scotch farmer, who had been in the States thirty-seven years. He farms a large farm south of St. Paul, which he said had now nearly worked itself out by continual wheat crops, and he had just bought a section, 640 acres, on the northern border of Minnesota, which he cropped entirely

<sup>1</sup> Beginning with this number of MINNESOTA HISTORY, a section of the magazine will regularly be devoted to reprints of interesting contemporary descriptions from Minnesota's past, drawn from travelers' reports which are out of print or inaccessible to the average reader. It is hoped that the accounts printed in this section will interest not only the general readers of the magazine but also teachers of Minnesota history who desire illustrative materials for class use. *Ed.*

with wheat. He said he and his four sons did most of the work; that they ploughed with four horses eleven hours a day, turning a 14-inch furrow; that in the flat country there was nothing to hinder the cultivation. They never hoed the wheat, and in fact did nothing but roll it until harvest, when he had to pay men 8s. a day; but that he got good work out of them for this, as they had to move with the machines, which were driven by members of his family. They use light horses, as they walk so much faster. As a rule they thresh and market their wheat as soon as possible. It is now worth about 80 cents a bushel (26s. a quarter), delivered to the nearest elevator. He said also, hardly anything but wheat is grown about here, as it is too cold for Indian corn. The land costs but little; they have no tithes, and very little to pay for taxes, and they can just do at present prices, although it is not good work. I suppose, therefore, this is what the English farmers have to contend with. I will get cost of railway and ship freight to an English port if I can.

St. Paul is a fine city, well situated, with high land on each bank of the river, but enough flat along the shore to leave room for business property. The country round is well cultivated; in fact, almost as well as one of the home counties of England. It is not a great manufacturing town, but I suppose has a large trading business as the centre of a fine agricultural district. The buildings are very large in some cases, and the foundations have to be piled, as it is on a sand. The bridges over the Mississippi are high up and useful, but not beautiful. The roads are paved in most cases with round wood blocks. This hotel, the Ryan, is built by a man who made a very large fortune in California in mining, and is now spending it in blocks of buildings in this city. He must be a man of considerable judgment and very rich, as it is splendidly built and very well managed by himself. The portion he has built cost £150,000, and the size is now being doubled.

There are some fine residences and roads on the high ground, some of the roads paved with asphalt; and electric light everywhere.

This is Decoration or Commemoration Day, set apart for decorating the graves of those who fell in the slave war. There was a funny kind of procession, each member dressing and

marching as he thought best, and then some carriages filled with girls dressed as soldiers. They all went to the Town Hall, before which there was a platform erected, and a mixed entertainment given: prayers, speeches, music, recitations and singing, one recitation by a lady.

Just as the most important part was coming off, the floor of the platform gave way, and about one-third of those on it fell through, but as they only had about six feet to fall no one was much hurt. This incident, combined with a heavy shower of rain, rather spoiled the effect of the meeting.

The old farmer told me they had a machine to press the straw into compact bundles, so that they could send it by rail to the towns where much of it is used for paper-making and other purposes. It costs not quite 2 dollars, or 8 shillings, a ton to do it at the high price for labour they pay here.

31st. — Went to Minneapolis this morning. It is a very well built, fine city, and increasing very fast. There were 30,000 immigrants to it last year. The buildings are almost all stone and brick, and the streets well paved. The chief source of wealth is the power given by the river Mississippi here, as there are falls of 50 feet and an immense volume of water. The falls have been lined over with wood to keep the rock from wearing away, as it is soft; and the water is led, part of it at least, into channels by the side, and turbine-wheels fixed, producing an enormous power altogether, but still not half of it is utilised. The Knights of Labour have just begun to build a trade hall at Minneapolis. There is great fear here that they will run up labour too high, and injure the trade of the country. Labour is at present very unmanageable, but a good feature in it is, that when men do work they work well, and do not skulk, as some of our English mechanics do. We went over one large flour-mill, Pillsbury's. It is a sample of what enterprise will do. The power is derived from two turbine wheels, 54 inches diameter and 4 feet deep, with a head of water of 50 feet. This they say gives an effective power of 2,400 horses. There are 240 pairs of rollers in it on one floor; the rollers were made in Buffalo. The wheat is run through seven times, or rather through seven pairs of rollers, and the flour finished by ordinary stones. The whole concern works like a piece of clockwork, and turns out

7,000 barrels of flour in twenty-four hours. They have other mills, making their output altogether 10,500 barrels daily, or sufficient to feed two cities the size of New York. They have two immense elevators in Minneapolis for storing wheat, and have small ones at almost all the railway stations in the surrounding wheat districts, all in communication with the chief office by wire, so that supplies of wheat can be got along as required. They have a railway into the mills, and use two hundred trucks a day to take wheat into, and the productions of it out of, the mills. They have a fine system of precautions against fire: sprinklers which come into play at temperatures below fire heat, and tell-tales which give indication at a less high temperature. The water-power used in these mills as well as the mills belong to the Pillsburys, on whom I called, and found to be very nice people. Their agents in London are Messrs. W. Kline and Son, of Tower Street.

The one drawback is that for three months in the winter the sources of the river are frozen, and they are therefore obliged to have a stand-by in the shape of steam engines, which they use during that time. Everything that could be done to save labour was done; the casks were delivered at a spot where they rolled themselves into position and counted themselves. The sacks were put into a spout with a slope to it and then a slight rise, so that they sprung themselves into the conveyances used to remove them. No wonder our millers have a hard time of it with such competition, and I am afraid it looks like lasting. Of course this mill is only one of a number, but I suppose the largest. The best hotel in Minneapolis is large, new, and built of brick and stone. The buildings and shops are altogether excellent. We return to St. Paul in time for dinner, and leave tonight at 8.40 for Chicago.

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*History of the American Frontier, 1763-1893.* By FREDERIC L. PAXSON, professor of history in the University of Wisconsin. (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924. xvii, 598 p. Maps.)

The publisher's announcement of a *History of the American Frontier* undoubtedly sent a thrill of anticipation through a considerable portion of the historical profession. For many years now instructors giving courses in "The History of the West," "The West in American History," "The Pioneer in American History," or similar subjects, have prefaced their lectures with the statement that "there is no single volume covering the contents of this course." It is true that since the publication of Professor Turner's brilliant papers in a single volume under the title *The Frontier in American History*, a few years ago, students have had convenient access to the fruits of research which will remain a monument to the man who boldly challenged the conventional and pioneered a new interpretation of American history. The membership rolls of historical societies and associations contain the names of a host of men and women who for years have followed the trails blazed by the first explorer; but until the year 1924 no one had produced a synthesis "in which an attempt is made to show the proportions of the whole story."

Professor Paxson needs no introduction. Through numerous articles of excellent quality setting forth certain phases of western history and through four volumes covering rather extensive periods of American history he had qualified for a position among those worthy to carry on the Turner tradition. The preface to the present volume ventures the modest prediction that the author's successors will improve upon his effort; the reviewer dares to improve upon the prophecy. Future historians will gratefully remember Mr. Paxson for essaying a task which others had either shirked or felt themselves incompetent to perform.

In the present volume the pioneer is followed to every frontier between 1763 and 1893. The fifty-nine chapters are so crowded with facts that the reader marvels at the industry of the author. With great pains and accuracy he marshals the facts which he has been in the process of collecting for twenty years. His literary genius does not shine in quotations from secondary and source material; he has made his material a part of himself. Generously conceding the merits of his achievement, it must be partially neutralized by saying that the pages lack the luster of pungent sentences judiciously selected from illustrative material which cannot escape the student of western history. It is a matter-of-fact West that is laid before our eyes. There are no Indian war whoops to frighten the army of facts out of step. We are not permitted to converse with the man in the older sections to learn from him why he took leave of friends and relatives in favor of Indian fighting and a prolonged struggle with an environment that was as inexorable as it was generous. Where is the frontier preacher who baptized young and old, visited the sick, buried the dead, married the living, preached the Gospel, organized churches, challenged his rival to public debate, and thrashed the leader of the rowdies? The hosts of European immigrants who read the letters and writings of men like Duden, Scholte, and Ole Rynning; the "fanatics" like those who came to establish the New Jerusalem of Eric Janson on the Illinois prairies; the agents of land and railway companies sent to England, Scotland, Germany, Scandinavia, Holland, and Switzerland to people the frontier of the thirties, forties, and fifties with hard-headed, close-fisted, courageous, God-fearing settlers—these are not in the picture. The jostling of the races and the clash of creeds and "cultures"—in short, the social history of the frontier—are dim in Mr. Paxson's pages. The problem of education, the efforts of home missionary societies to set up beacons of enlightenment, the leaven of the frontier in the whole American lump do not receive their due allotment of space.

These are formidable omissions, but they are not set down in the spirit of carping criticism. The pioneer is not expected to do everything that needs to be done. In a domain of knowledge so vast, the author cannot crowd everything into a single volume.

It is easy enough to criticise on the ground of omissions or emphasis, and each individual is entitled to make his own decisions as to what to stress. And there are a goodly number of excellent chapters and numerous examples of fine writing.

By 1800 the external aspect of the landscape was changing, with the extension of cleared fields, and the gradual rebuilding of cabins over the older areas. But inside the cabins the family life still embraced the whole range of domestic manufactures. The frontier graveyards show how hard the early life was on the women of the family. The patriarch laid to rest in his family tract, beside two, three, or four wives who had preceded him, is much more common than the hardy woman who outlived her husbands. The housewife came to her new home young and raw, and found for neighbors other girls as inexperienced. She bore the children; and buried a staggering number of them, for medicine and sanitation, inadequate everywhere, were out of reach for the cabin on the border. She fed her men and raised her children, cooked their food and laid it by for the winter. She was at once butcher, packer, and baker. The family clothes showed her craftsmanship, with skins playing a large part, and homespun or knitting revealing a luxury established. When one adds to the grinding and unavoidable labor, the anguish that came from sickness and danger, the frontier woman who survived becomes an heroic character, and the children who felt her touch become the proper material from which to choose the heroes of a nation (p. 114).

Professor Paxson has a keen insight into the intricacies of frontier finance and the inside workings of canal and railroad corporations. His own research and that of a group of graduate students under his guidance have given the pages devoted to the railroads the touch of the master hand. The chapters on the public lands are interpretative as well as factual. The author understands the political theories of the frontier and the conditions that gave them birth. He finds his way through the "cow country" like an experienced traveler. Eleven maps are useful supplements to the text.

Fourteen years ago Mr. Paxson wrote in the preface to his *Last American Frontier* that he hoped "before many years to exploit in a larger and more elaborate form the mass of detailed information upon which this sketch is based." A careful read-



ing of the *History of the American Frontier* warrants the assertion that his hopes have been realized in reasonably gratifying measure.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

*Social Politics in the United States.* By FRED E. HAYNES, assistant professor of sociology, State University of Iowa. (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924. xii, 414 p.)

"Studies begun in the nineties and published in two volumes . . . convinced the writer that social and economic factors had played a more important part in our politics than was realized. These factors explained the origin of minor parties and gradually were bringing about a socialization of our politics." With this statement in the preface the author explains why he has undertaken the study, hence it is to be presumed that the work is intended as an interpretation of American political development in the light of basic economic and social conditions. That it accomplishes this purpose may be open to question. What seems actually to be done is the sketching of the rise and development of a number of more or less radical movements in the United States. The titles of some of the chapters indicate the nature of the subjects: "Economic Conditions and American Democracy," "Marxian Socialism," "The Labor Movement," "Third Parties," "The Progressive Movement," "The Industrial Workers of the World," "The Nonpartisan League," and "The New Farmers' Movement." The last chapter gives a survey of "Recent Social Progress," factors of which are stated as workmen's compensation, mothers' pension, health insurance, child labor legislation, and the like.

If one desires a rather compact statement of the facts about these different movements this book affords a useful summary. If, however, there is sought their interpretation, their interrelations with other social phenomena, one must go elsewhere. Both the title and the preface raise expectations which are not realized in the book itself.

LESTER B. SHIPPEE

*A History of the Canadian Pacific Railway.* By HAROLD A. INNIS, PH. D., lecturer in the Department of Political Economy in the University of Toronto. (London, P. S. King and Son, Ltd.; Toronto, McClelland and Steward, Ltd., 1923. viii, 365 p.)

The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway marked a new epoch in the history of Canada. Built through a new unsettled country, over plains and rugged mountains, it was the forerunner of an advancing civilization. It has been the primal factor in the solidifying of Canadian political unity and the development of a Canadian nationality. The story of the construction of the railroad and of its varied effects on national expansion and solidarity has been told in this scholarly and accurate work.

The author is conscious of the larger significance that the railway has exercised in Dominion growth when he says that the history of the road is primarily the "history of the spread of western civilization over the northern half of the North American continent." He adds that the "Canadian Pacific Railway, as a vital part of the technological equipment of western civilization, has increased to a very marked extent the productive capacity of that civilization."

The writer has undoubtedly given considerable time to the search for documentary material, and has used his documents with critical judgment. Very little space is devoted to the personalities and achievements of the company's members, however. The author has in fact avoided the personal approach and has attempted to study his subject "from an evolutionary and scientific point of view."

The reviewer questions the necessity of giving so much space in a comparatively short study to the early exploration and settlement of the Canadian Pacific coast and the Hudson Bay drainage basin. In the introductory chapter there is a voluminous display of references, many of which appear to serve no essential purpose in Dr. Innis' thesis. Two-thirds of this chapter, at the least, consists of references and long quotations made largely from secondary or very well-known primary sources. The material treated, too, is of such a familiar character that it seems unnecessary to cite authorities so elaborately. Of course the extensive citation of sources in the succeeding chapters,

especially in those that deal properly with the history of the railway, serves a real purpose, and here the writer uses good judgment in discriminating between the sources used.

Often the author's language lacks force and clearness. There is a constant repetition of words and phrases. The sentences, too, are frequently long and involved. It is necessary sometimes to read a passage over two or three times before the author's meaning is grasped. There are a few slight mistakes in the text, typographical and otherwise, and a few misspelled words are scattered throughout the work.

To the student who is interested in Canadian-American relations and Minnesota history, Dr. Innis' book possesses special interest. In discussing the rise of a Canadian interest in the Northwest, the annexation of that territory by Canada, and the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he brings out clearly the Canadian fear of American aggression. The Alaska-Russian project of the Western Union Telegraph Company in 1865, the annexation bill of 1866, the purchase of Alaska, and the Northern Pacific Railway project are cited as causes of Canadian anxiety. The author states that increase in settlement in the Red River colony, its desire for a better market, and the growth of American trade caused definite dissatisfaction in the Canadian Northwest, but that the British government took a more active interest in that region when confronted with signs of American imperialism and the rapid western development of the United States. "Evidences of American Imperialism, as shown particularly in the offer of Anglo-American capitalists to purchase the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company, proved a decided stimulus to further activity," the author declares.

Finally, he says that the great increase of United States trade with the Red River settlement impressed the Canadians with the potentialities of the region. The gold discoveries in British Columbia and the immigration thereby occasioned were additional stimuli to British and Canadian solicitude as to the Canadian West, and this solicitude hastened the agreement with British Columbia which led eventually to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Any adverse criticism that has been made in this review must not be permitted to detract from the real merit of Dr. Innis'

book. It is a nonprejudiced, straightforward, and thorough account of the history of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

JOHN PERRY PRITCHETT

*America of the Fifties: Letters of Fredrika Bremer (Scandinavian Classics, vol. 23).* Selected and edited by ADOLPH B. BENSON. (New York, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 1924. xx, 344 p. Illustrations.)

Among the most charming pictures of America as seen through European eyes is that revealed in the letters sent back to Sweden by Fredrika Bremer during her two-year sojourn in the United States from 1849 to 1851. As an author of established reputation, she had access to the best American homes, and she took full advantage of her position not only to acquaint herself with the East, an experience which satisfied so many early visitors to America, but also to see and to study the South and the West. Thus this volume of selections from her letters is of direct interest to the people of all sections of the United States which could be reached with any degree of comfort in 1850.

After landing in New York with its "great high-street . . . where people and carriages pour along in one incessant stream and in true republican intermixture," Miss Bremer spent an entire year viewing with European leisure the East and the Southeast and meeting the most brilliant of America's literary celebrities — Bryant, Lowell, Emerson, Whittier, Longfellow, and "Washington Irving, who, together with Fennimore Cooper, was the first to make us in Sweden somewhat at home in America." Early in September, 1850, she began that journey westward by way of Niagara, Chicago, Madison, Galena, and the Mississippi, which brought her to Minnesota.

Of this most remote part of the New World which she undertook to visit Miss Bremer left a fascinating picture — fascinating at least to those who now inhabit this one-time frontier. Only a fraction of her original account, however, has been retained in the present volume. What is undoubtedly her most interesting comment on the region is given due prominence, as is natural in a volume published by the American-Scandinavian Foundation, for in October, 1850, she exclaims: "What a glorious new Scan-

dinavia might not Minnesota become! Here the Swede would find again his clear, romantic lakes, the plains of Scåne rich in corn, and the valleys of Norrland; here the Norwegian would find his rapid rivers, his lofty mountains . . . and both nations, their hunting-fields and their fisheries. . . . The climate, the situation, the character of the scenery agrees with our people better than that of any other American States." It was just such statements, repeated by scores of travelers and settlers from Europe's northern peninsula, that led to Minnesota the vast Scandinavian population which distinguishes the state today.

A comparison of the fifty pages devoted to Minnesota in Miss Bremer's original volume, published in 1853, and the ten pages in the present volume, reveals the fact that a great deal of historically valuable material has been lost in condensing two volumes of 650 pages each to a single volume of moderate size. For example, the omission of Miss Bremer's description of the Mississippi River steamboat on which she enjoyed the company of Mr. and Mrs. Sibley between Galena and St. Paul is a real loss. The consecutive smoothness of the original letters is also missed in these rather choppy and often disconnected extracts. On the other hand the American-Scandinavian Foundation has published a book which is decidedly more inviting to most readers than Miss Bremer's *Homes of the New World*. The very title challenges the attention of all who are interested in early American social conditions, whereas the saccharine sentimentality of the title of the original English translation, which reflects a like quality in the letters, is enough to discourage the average reader. The editor has done much to rid the letters of this flavor, so characteristic of the writing of the period.

In a brief introduction Mr. Benson gives the setting for the letters—a sketch of the author and her accomplishments, a hasty enumeration of the characteristics of the America which she visited, and some contemporary American comments about her. It enables the reader to approach more intelligently this interesting account of America which is now made available in such an attractive format. Two portraits of Miss Bremer and several of her pencil sketches of American friends illustrate the volume.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

*Year-book of the Swedish Historical Society of America.* Volume 9. (St. Paul, 1924. 143 p.)

This *Year-book* maintains the high standard of excellence set in the recent annuals of the Swedish Historical Society of America. The opening article is a valuable study of "Early Efforts at Scandinavian Church Union in America," by A. A. Stomberg, which throws light upon the theological controversies among the Scandinavians up to 1870. The second article is a brief account by G. N. Swan of the first Swedish settlers in Iowa.

The most of the volume is devoted to a series of "Letters from Pioneer Days," compiled and edited by Dr. Conrad Peterson of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. These are drawn from four groups of manuscripts, the Esbjörn, Hasselquist, and Norelius papers, owned by Augustana College and the Augustana Book Concern of Rock Island, Illinois, and the Mattson Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. Most of the material selected for publication consists of letters or extracts from letters written in the fifties and sixties. The first document, however, is entitled "A Journey from Sweden to America in 1849" and consists of extracts from the diary of L. P. Esbjörn, based upon a copy of that diary made by Eric Norelius in 1886. The diary gives a vivid picture of an emigrant's journey, but unfortunately the record was broken off before Esbjörn reached America. The fragmentary character of the material is accentuated by the fact that the entries are not printed in full. What is given is so interesting and illuminating that the reader cannot escape a feeling of regret that the entire diary is not printed.

In presenting the letters Dr. Peterson writes that his aim "has been merely to illustrate and to catch something of the spirit" of the fifties and the sixties with reference to the Swedish-Americans. "Hardly a topic is touched upon in which the same collection does not contain a good deal more of enlightening material." Not counting the diary Dr. Peterson presents fifty-six letters and documents. In each case the original Swedish is followed by a literal English translation. The letters reveal in interesting fashion the material and spiritual experiences of Swedish immigrants in the upper Mississippi Valley in the fifties and sixties as these experiences were reported to pioneer ministers

like T. N. Hasselquist, Erland Carlsson, and Eric Norelius. There is also some material throwing light upon the situation in Sweden. A letter from a minister in that country, written on March 1, 1854, gives a graphic account of the effects of "America letters" upon the members of his congregation. This minister even spoke from the pulpit in an effort to check the "America fever," but his words had little effect in the face of the glowing reports sent from America by immigrants. Wrote one, "All alike; the farmer, the minister and the judge all have the same title. One does not need to go and bow and nod, hat in hand." Visions of social democracy went hand in hand with hopes of economic freedom. One immigrant summed up the whole situation by declaring of himself, "No count in Sweden lives better." Many of the letters were written by pioneers at Chisago Lake and describe conditions in that Minnesota settlement. Perhaps the most interesting letters in the collection from the point of view of Minnesota history are those from Hans Mattson to Hasselquist, written in the early fifties, and from Mattson to his wife, written during the Civil War. Particularly noteworthy is a letter written at Fort Snelling on October 3, 1861, in which Mattson explains to his wife the reasons why he enlisted.

It is evident that the manuscript collections from which Dr. Peterson has drawn his materials are important sources not only for the history of the Swedes in America but also for the history of the upper Mississippi Valley.

T. C. B.

*History of the 151st Field Artillery, Rainbow Division* (Minnesota War Records Commission, *Publications*, vol. 2—*Minnesota in the World War*, vol. 1). By LOUIS L. COLLINS; edited by WAYNE E. STEVENS, PH. D. (St. Paul, 1924. xxiv, 427 p. Illustrations, maps.)

The second volume to be published by the Minnesota War Records Commission maintains the high standard of scholarship and workmanship attained in the first, but it differs materially from its predecessor in character and content. Volume 1 of this series had to do with the part played by Minnesota in the Spanish-



American War and the Philippine Insurrection. Written by a trained historian twenty-five years after those conflicts were over, the work naturally enough took the form of a scientific historical monograph. It is high grade secondary material.<sup>1</sup> The volume before us, however, is written much closer upon the events it narrates and in large part by one who was an active participant in them — not merely an historian. Much of the *History of the 151st Field Artillery* is therefore source material — precisely the sort of thing Mr. Holbrook must have longed for and found wanting when he wrote of the war of 1898.

Lieutenant Governor Collins, however, would be the first to insist that the work is neither exclusively his own nor exclusively based upon his own observations. The assistance of members of the War Records Commission staff, and more particularly of the editor of the volume, Mr. Wayne E. Stevens, clearly helped him much in the enrichment of his narrative and the correction of his data. Furthermore, it was not until February, 1918, that, according to Colonel Leach's diary, "Louis Collins arrived from Minneapolis . . . to enlist in the regiment." For the early history of the 151st and the trip to France, therefore, Lieutenant Governor Collins is strictly historian, and not observer. And for the rest of it he draws not only upon his personal recollections, but also freely upon all available sources, especially the remarkable Leach diary kept by the regimental commander and previously published. Even so, the work as a whole is dominated by the fact that the writer was much of the time an eyewitness and an actual participant — above all, one who saw much and could tell what he saw.

As Mr. Stevens points out, the regiment is no more fortunate in its historian than the historian is fortunate in his theme. The 151st was originally a unit of the Minnesota National Guard; as such it saw service on the Mexican border; and later it became a part of the famous Rainbow Division "which, because of its composite organization, perhaps most completely represented the spirit of the embattled nation. The history of the 151st may, in a sense, be regarded as typical of the story of

<sup>1</sup>This volume, by Franklin F. Holbrook, secretary of the Minnesota War Records Commission, is reviewed *ante*, 5: 208-210.



the division as a whole, and in its pages the reader may even follow in broad outline the story of the major operations of the entire A. E. F." Some of the chapter titles give a good idea of the varied over-seas experience of the "Gopher Gunners"—"In the Lorraine Line," "The Champagne Defensive," "The German Retreat from the Marne," "On to the Vesle," "The Reduction of the St. Mihiel Salient," "The Meuse-Argonne Offensive," "On the Rhine."

For those who viewed the World War from this side of the Atlantic the reading of these pages awakens memories that were beginning to fade: those anxious days of scanning the news to see what advance, what retreats, had been made; that intimate knowledge, so unnatural to an American, of the geography of northeastern France; that sublime and unreasoned hatred of all things German; those strange words of modern warfare—echelons, salients, sectors, blimps, box barrages, duds. For the men who were actually with the fighting force at the front the memories aroused will be different. Doubtless they will recall the mud and the marching, the "tin" rations and the "cooties," quite as vividly as the travels in France and the deeds of actual combat.

Oh, they show you the horse that you're going to ride,  
But they don't show the shovel on the other side.

And yet the narrative is but a plain and faithful chronicle of events. If emotions are aroused it is not because any conscious effort has been made to arouse them, for the temptation to overdraw the picture is everywhere rigorously repressed. Soldiers who are "killed in action" are not recorded as "having made the supreme sacrifice"; men mortally wounded are merely "evacuated to the rear." The author and the editor have evidently conspired to tell in dignified and restrained language and with the greatest possible precision merely what happened and how it happened. They are content to let the record speak for itself. Perhaps the happy combination of participant as writer and historian as editor, which the Minnesota War Records Commission has here hit upon, is in some part responsible for the excellent result obtained.

About half of the volume is devoted to Lieutenant Governor Collins' story. A third more is used to present carefully selected official documents, which, as the editor says, serve "to support and verify the statements contained in the accompanying narrative," to afford for "those who may be interested an opportunity to secure more detailed and technical information," to supply material illustrative of "certain aspects of military life and activity," and to give to the officers and men of the regiment "an opportunity for the first time to read some of the orders under which they fought in France in 1918." The rest of the volume is given over to a roster of the regiment and an ample index.

The business of writing the history of Minnesota's part in the World War has clearly fallen into good hands. Succeeding volumes will be awaited with keen anticipation.

JOHN D. HICKS

*Elementary Citizenship for Minnesota Schools.* By R. B. MACLEAN, president of the Moorhead Teachers College, and H. E. FLYNN, inspector of teacher training departments in Minnesota high schools. (St. Paul, Webb Publishing Company, 1923. 211 p. Illustrations.)

This book presents "a body of civic material . . . for the use of both teachers and pupils in realizing the purpose of the course in citizenship . . . and for the elementary schools of Minnesota." The chief aim of this course, say the authors, is the development of coöperation in group life, first in the family, then in the community, and then in state and nation. The chapters are arranged with this order in mind; thus the first two chapters, on "Courtesy and Right Conduct" and "Health and Sanitation," pertain more to family life than the last two, on "The Making of an American Citizen" and "The Machinery of Government." The six intermediate chapters deal with recreation, charitable and penal institutions, education, the courts, the police, various other state agencies, taxation, accident and fire prevention, transportation and communication, and the interrelation of natural resources, labor, and capital. These subjects are presented in their lowest terms of course and the more abstruse are made

real to the child by simple examples and analogies. In the chapters on "Minnesota's Public School System" and "The Machinery of Government" some historical background is included. A useful appendix reprints the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and a "Manual for Teachers" contains suggestions for method and approach.

On the whole the book succeeds admirably in its purpose, and should be of real service to teachers, to the future citizens of the state, and so to the state itself. Frequent and well-chosen illustrations add to the interest of the text.

ELIZABETH H. BUCK

*St. Louis County, Minnesota, Chronology, From the Earliest Times to and Including the Year 1900.* By WILLIAM E. CULKIN. (Duluth, St. Louis County Historical Society, 1924. 41 p.)

The best indication of the vitality of local historical societies is publication. It is particularly gratifying therefore to note the appearance of this pamphlet, which is the first publication of the recent crop of county historical societies in Minnesota. As readers of this magazine know, the St. Louis County Historical Society was established in 1922 following the state historical convention at Duluth, is affiliated with the state society as an institutional member, and has a small appropriation from the county. This publication, which was compiled by the president of the society, the Honorable William E. Culkin, was made possible by a contribution from the American Exchange Bank of Duluth.

The work is more than a bare chronology; it includes, as the foreword states, "a sort of abstract of title in a historical sense." In other words, much attention is devoted to changes of jurisdiction, especially as indicated by treaties and legislative acts. For the later period the statutes of the territory and state furnish most of the information. The significance for St. Louis County of the events and enactments listed is brought out, and references are cited whenever necessary.

In a work of this sort covering so wide a range it is very difficult to avoid inaccuracies of statement, and a few such have

been noted, as well as a number of slips and typographical errors. The principal items omitted are the capitulation of Montreal in 1760, by which Canada, including nominally the area of St. Louis County, was surrendered to the English; and the Proclamation of 1763, by which that area was included in the territory reserved for the Indians for the time being. The author was unduly modest in failing to put his name on the title page. Readers and especially librarians like to know at first glance who is responsible for a given work.

S. J. B.

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

With the completion of the first decade of its existence, this magazine alters its title from MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN to MINNESOTA HISTORY, A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE in order to signalize a change in the character of the publication. In addition to scholarly contributions to knowledge, each number will contain some material designed to have a wider popular appeal or to be useful to teachers of Minnesota history in the schools. Several new features will be added, for example, a section of reprints of illuminating extracts from books of travel and other publications not generally accessible outside the largest libraries, and a series of popular talks under the general heading of "Radio-grams of Minnesota History." This change in policy will necessitate some expansion in the average size of the issues and consequently those of a single year instead of two years will make a volume hereafter. The months of issue will be March, June, September, and December.

The fourth state historical convention is to be held on June 17 and 18 at Winona and La Crosse. The meeting will be under the joint auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Tentative plans have been made for the holding of the sessions of the first day at Winona, upon the invitation of the Winona Association of Commerce. The sessions of the second day of the convention will be held at La Crosse.

The additions to the active membership during the quarter ending December 31, 1924, numbered sixty-eight, which bring the total to 1,350. A list of the names of the new members, grouped by counties, follows:

ANOKA: Emily W. Gates of Anoka.

BECKER: John S. Comstock of Detroit and Mrs. Walter F. Just of Frazee.

BLUE EARTH: Charles R. Butler and William D. Willard of Mankato.

BROWN: William R. Caswell and George L. Schmidt of New Ulm.

CARLTON: Oscar W. Samuelson of Carlton.

CLAY: Miss E. M. Probstfield of Moorhead.

COTTONWOOD: Mrs. R. H. Jefferson of Bingham Lake.

FREEBORN: Edward A. Storvick of Albert Lea.

HENNEPIN: Edward D. Anderson, Mrs. Charles C. Bovey, R. E. Burbridge, Alexander Campbell, Mrs. Bertha Capstick, Lawrence S. Clark, Leo M. Crafts, Norton M. Cross, James E. Dorsey, John J. Flather, Wilbur B. Foshay, Louis Gluek, George Hoke, John B. Johnston, William G. Loye, Henry C. Mackall, Joseph F. Moore, Mrs. Bertha A. Morse, Katherine Moyer, William E. Nelson, Frank H. Peterson, James H. Rees, Horace Ropes, Mrs. Clara M. Schutt, Arthur W. Selover, Frank W. Shaw, George Sverdrup, and George B. Webster, all of Minneapolis.

LAC QUI PARLE: Carl M. Johnson of Dawson.

LINCOLN: Gwendolyn E. Magandy of Tyler.

MILLE LACS: Rufus P. Morton of Princeton.

OLMSTED: Mrs. William F. Braasch of Rochester.

PENNINGTON: Charles E. Hellquist of Thief River Falls.

PINE: Elna H. Pederson of Askov.

RAMSEY: Charles L. Conley, Watson P. Davidson, Ross A. Gortner, J. Marie Gronvold, John M. Leonard, Harold J. Richardson, Mrs. Edward N. Saunders, Dr. Arnold Schwyzer, Florence C. Stork, and Herman W. F. Wollaeger, all of St. Paul.

REDWOOD: Emil C. Steinhauser of Lamberton.

ST. LOUIS: Frank Crassweller of Duluth, and Henry G. Seeley of Biwabik.

SWIFT: Julius Thorson of Benson.

WINONA: Right Reverend Patrick R. Heffron and A. W. Sawyer of Winona.

NONRESIDENT: W. P. Willets of Glendale, California; Minotte H. Chatfield of New Haven, Connecticut; C. J. Harlan of Cresco, and Olaf M. Norlie of Decorah, Iowa; Edward C. Bailly of New York City; Herman J. Nangle of Devils Lake, North Dakota; and Sylvester C. Davis of Seattle, Washington.

The society lost three active members by death during the last quarter: Dr. Archibald McLaren of St. Paul, October 12; Petter L. Lundberg of Ullstorp, Onnestad, Sweden, October 22; and Mrs. Francis L. Frary of Minneapolis, December 14.

The number of subscriptions to the society's publications has been increased to 157 by the addition of 18 institutions during the last quarter. These include the public library of Marshall, the public schools of Adams, Bemidji, Cokato, Excelsior, Grand Rapids, Hector, Heron Lake, Hitterdal, Keewatin, Lamberton, Paynesville, Renville, Stewartville, Stillwater, and Willmar; the Mankato State Teachers College; and Concordia College library of St. Paul.

The monthly radio talks on Minnesota history topics by representatives of the society have been resumed from the Twin City Radio Station WCCO. On October 20 the assistant superintendent gave a talk entitled "Minnesota: An Historical Interpretation," and on November 17 he spoke on "Minnesota Trail Blazers in the French Period." On December 15 the curator of the museum gave the eighteenth talk in the series on the subject, "With Zebulon Pike in Minnesota, 1805-06."

That the radio talks possess popular appeal is evidenced by the fact that several of them have been used as articles in local magazines. For example, the talk given by the curator of manuscripts on the subject of pioneer missionaries to the Minnesota Indians is published in the *Western Magazine* for October under the title "Early Day Missionaries to Indians"; and an address on "Old Manuscripts and Minnesota History" by the assistant superintendent appears in the December number of the *Gopher-M*, the monthly magazine of the Minneapolis Athletic Club.

A number of speeches on historical topics, apart from the radio talks, have been given by staff members during the quarter. The superintendent addressed the Stillwater Rotary Club on October 16 on the subject "Introducing Minnesota"; and on December 9 he gave an illustrated talk on the "History of St. Paul" to the members of the St. Paul Real Estate Board. The

assistant superintendent addressed the St. Paul Cosmopolitan Club on November 21 on "Cosmopolitan Features of the State's Past." A series of biweekly talks for children has been given by the curator of the museum at the Riverview Branch Library, St. Paul, on the topics "Primitive Man," "Indian Life," the "Coming of the White Man," "Fort Snelling," and "Indian Warfare." On November 10 he spoke to the class in recent American history at Hamline University on the subject of "The Adjustment of the Indians to White Civilization."

A scholarly study of "Major Lawrence Taliaferro, Indian Agent," by Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., curator of the society's museum, appears in the December *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. The paper was originally read at the state historical convention at Redwood Falls in 1923 and is summarized *ante*, 5: 278-280.

A brief review of the work of the society from its founding in 1849 to the present, with emphasis upon progress in the last twenty-five years, is contributed by the curator of the museum to the *Western Magazine* for December. In the same magazine under the title "So This is St. Paul!" there is a short statement about changes in that city during the last quarter of a century written by the society's newspaper librarian, Mr. John Talman.

The superintendent and the curator of manuscripts attended the Richmond meeting of the American Historical Association in December (see *post*, p. 78). During the meeting they participated in a conference of state historical agencies in the upper Mississippi Valley, at which important decisions were reached concerning the coöperative calendaring of material in the national archives in Washington and of the American Fur Company Papers in the possession of the New York Historical Society. (See *ante*, 5: 142, 224, 457, 504.) After the meeting Dr. Nute visited a number of libraries and other depositories in the East in search of historical material and discovered a number of groups of manuscripts, hitherto unknown, which are of primary importance for the early history of Minnesota. A report of her discoveries will appear in the next issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY.



The curator of the society's museum attended a museum conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on November 17 and 18, at which organization was effected of the "Wisconsin Museum Conference," a society of museum workers in Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi Valley which will hold two meetings yearly and serve generally to coördinate museum activities in this region. Mr. Babcock was elected a member of the executive committee of the new organization. On the same trip he visited the Chicago Historical Society and spent six days at Madison, Wisconsin, where he worked in the manuscript division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, examining photostats of the Indian Office Letter Books and the Forsyth Papers in the possession of that society. Both of these collections contain important material on the history of Indian affairs in the Northwest.

The assistant superintendent of the society was elected president of the history section of the Minnesota Education Association at its annual meeting in November.

The memory of Paul Hjelm-Hansen was honored on October 10 through the presentation to the society of a handsome commemorative bronze plaque designed by Paul Fjelde of New York, which bears the inscription: "Paul Hjelm Hansen, Born Bergen Norway, 1810, Died Goodhue County Minnesota 1881, Who Through the Norwegian-American Press Blazed the Way for the Scandinavian Settlers of the Red River Valley. Presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Norwegian-Danish Press Association of America." The presentation was made at a special meeting held in the society's auditorium on the afternoon of October 10, at which a paper dealing with the life and the writings of Hjelm-Hansen was read by Mr. Carl G. Hansen of Minneapolis. Mr. N. N. Rønning of Minneapolis, president of the press association, made a brief presentation talk, and the speech of acceptance was given by Dr. William W. Folwell, president of the society. The superintendent, Dr. Solon J. Buck, then spoke briefly on the value of the Scandinavian-American press. Readers of this magazine will recall a brief summary of the career of Hjelm-Hansen printed *ante*, 5: 579, as a report of a paper read at the state historical convention in Detroit. An

interesting and informing sketch of the career of Hjelm-Hansen by Mr. Rönning is published in *Familiens Magazin* for October. The acquisition by the society of some of the papers of Hjelm-Hansen (see *post*, p. 74) was probably a result of the extensive publicity given by the press to the Hjelm-Hansen plaque.

#### ACCESSIONS

The society has made a valuable addition to its collection of materials relating to Norwegian immigration and the Norwegian element in the United States by securing typewritten copies of seven rare pamphlets published in Norway between 1837 and 1854. For several years the assistant superintendent, Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, has been conducting a search for contemporary material relating to Norwegian immigration, and from various sources he has built up a bibliography of books and pamphlets in this field. A list of unlocated material was turned over to Mr. Gunnar Malmin, who spent the year 1923-24 in the Scandinavian countries working for the Carnegie Institution of Washington in the archives of those countries. Mr. Malmin located and had copied for the Minnesota Historical Society five of the rarest items in Mr. Blegen's list, the titles of which (in translation) are herewith given: Peter Testman (Blikkenslager), *A Brief Account of the Most Important Experiences during a Sojourn in North America and upon Several Journeys Connected Therewith* (Stavanger, 1839); Sjur Jörgenson Haaeim, *Reports on Conditions in North America Especially with Reference to the Fate of the Norwegians Who Have Gone There, Written by a Norwegian Bonde Who Emigrated But Came Back Again* (Christiania, 1842); Jan Adolph Budde, *From a Letter about America* (Stavanger, 1850); *Interesting Reports on North America, Described by a Traveler* (Arendal, 1852), an anonymous work, which although published in Norway came from the pen of a Dane; and Hans Tønnesen Steene, *An Account of a Three Years' Journey in America Made in the Years from 1849 to 1852 among the Norwegian Emigrants in the United States of North America* (Stavanger, 1854). Two other pamphlets, not in the list, were found in Norway by Mr. Malmin and were copied for the society. One is entitled (in translation) *A Word of Warning to the Bønder in Bergen Diocese Who Are Eager to*

*Emigrate; A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of the Diocese (Bergen, 1837)*, written by the well-known Norwegian, Bishop Neumann; and the other is Laurits Jacob Fribert, *Handbook for Emigrants to the American West, with Directions for the Journey, together with a Description of the Life and Agricultural Methods, More Especially in Wisconsin* (Christiania, 1847), a work by a Dane which had considerable influence not only upon the Danish emigration but also upon the Norwegian. Taken as a whole the seven pamphlets mentioned above constitute perhaps the most important addition made within the last decade to the known sources of information on Norwegian immigration. They throw light upon almost every aspect of the immigration from the thirties to the fifties. Mr. Blegen is planning to bring out English translations of several of the newly-discovered pamphlets. Mr. Malmin also had copied for the society the manuscript of an unpublished book by Mr. Abraham Grimstvedt, which is made up primarily of a collection of thirty-one immigrant letters written and sent to Norway in the period from 1850 to 1875 by three members of a Norwegian family. The letters, most of which were written in Wisconsin, constitute a valuable source for the history of Norwegian settlement. The entire collection of new material which has been added to the society's resources in this field may be considered a timely acquisition in view of the fact that a great centennial celebration in honor of the pioneer Norwegian immigrants is to be held in St. Paul in June of the present year. The building up of a great collection of historical materials relating to the Norwegians in America is in a sense the finest monument that can be proposed in honor of these hardy pioneers.

A copy of a manuscript by the famous Red River Valley pioneer, Charles Cavalier, entitled "The Red River Valley in 1851," has been presented to the society by Miss Lulah Cavalier of Pembina, North Dakota, through the courtesy of Mr. R. E. Burbridge of Duluth. The paper includes an account of Cavalier's journey to Pembina, where he was to fill the post of collector of the customs, and descriptions of life in that remote frontier settlement. Of special interest is the following comment: "In the fall of 1851 we elected our first members of the Legislature of Minnesota. Mr. Kittson was elected senator and Rolette to the lower house. That was the first grand move or step to civ-

ilization in this region. It was a sad day for me when they headed for St. Paul to prosecute their arduous labors as representatives of this wild constituency. Joe [Rolette] had a fancy carry-all. His dogs were of the best, flaunting gaudy ribbons, red cloth housing, and pretty little tinkling bells, while Kittson's team was rigged in his own style, neat but not gaudy." Cavalier wrote the paper for a meeting of old settlers at Grand Forks, North Dakota, in 1891. Among several other papers presented by Miss Cavalier is an important letter, dated February 15, 1849, written by Henry H. Sibley concerning the bill for the organization of Minnesota Territory.

In response to a published announcement of the society's plan to build up a collection of lumber industry records, Mr. John F. Gable of Marine recently presented a ledger kept by the firm of Judd, Walker, and Company of Marine Mills for the period from 1855 to 1858—a valuable contemporary source of information on early lumbering. Doubtless many such record books are still in existence and it is hoped that others will follow Mr. Gable's example.

Home life and social activities in St. Paul from 1853 to 1864 are interestingly portrayed in a series of letters written to relatives in the East by four sisters, Mrs. William Forbes, Mrs. Louis Blum, Mrs. Alexis Bailly, and Miss Phoebe Frances Cory, and now presented to the society by Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul. Soon after she came to St. Paul, Mrs. Blum wrote to her parents a letter describing in some detail her home and its furnishings, which gives an excellent idea of the manner in which St. Paul homes were furnished in 1853. Even the cellar is not neglected: "Then we have [a] very large cellar, filled with potatoes, cabbage Turnips Beans Molasses Onions Apples 8 Turkeys 3 barrel flour 20 lbs sperm candle 4 of chicken 50 doz Tallow Candle for the kitchen 7 pound Sage 10 pound dried pumpkin 2 bags Buckwheat 10 dz Eggs 30 pound butter." An entertaining bit in a letter from Mrs. Bailly, October 20, 1854, tells that Mr. Forbes has just brought to Amanda, later his wife, "the Lamplighter" beautifully bound. "We had not read it. I'm glad he brought it, for not feeling well enough to work, and not having anything else, I have been reading the

*fourth reader* all the morning." One letter tells of seeing Hole-in-the-Day, another of visiting the Falls of St. Anthony, another of going "up street" to get ice cream. In a letter of July 25, 1854, Mrs. Bailly writes that "there is a great deal of formality here." In the same letter she enclosed a funeral card "to let you see how the people are invited to funerals here."

An acquisition of some importance to students interested in the methods by which regions in Minnesota advertised themselves to prospective settlers in the East is a letter written from Zumbrota by Isaac C. Stearns to his brother John on October 10, 1858. The letter itself is of historical value, but even more interesting is the last page, which bears a printed advertisement of six paragraphs telling of the origin, present status, and prospects of Zumbrota.

Valuable material for the history of Winona and for the study of Minnesota settlement in the fifties and sixties is contained in a small record book of land speculations carried on by the business firm of G. W. and W. G. Ewing of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Photostats of the pages in this book have been made for the society from the original in the state library at Indianapolis.

To commemorate the "Crossing Treaty" concluded with the Chippewa Indians of the Red River Valley in 1864, a semi-centennial celebration was held at Louisville, Red Lake County, in 1914. A number of papers and articles relating to this celebration have been received by the society from Mrs. C. N. Zealand of Crookston.

The papers of Joel B. Bassett as Chippewa Indian agent for Minnesota, which furnish data of an authentic nature for a study of the turbulent conditions which prevailed among the Chippewa in the late sixties, have been received from Dr. William W. Folwell, who secured them from Mr. William L. Bassett of Los Angeles, California. The papers number about thirty-five and fall within the period from 1859 to 1868. Several letters from George Bonga, a mixed-blood of Indian and Negro extraction who acted as interpreter for Bassett, throw light upon fraudulent practices which unscrupulous whites employed against the Indians. Bonga was a strong and interesting character,

whose testimony on the question of Indian conditions bears much weight. His implicit faith in Bishop Whipple's ability to see justice done to the Indians was not without basis, for among Bassett's papers are several letters in the bishop's handwriting dealing with the matter of stopping abuses and giving the Indian a fair chance to make progress. In November, 1866, the bishop addressed a letter to Bassett saying that he had received a letter from the secretary of the treasury announcing that because of the bishop's earnest request he had appointed Bassett as Indian agent. Whipple's letter to Bassett continues: "It is the first time in my life since I became a bishop that I have ever asked a political appointment. . . . I have done so [*trusted you*] to an extent that if you should disappoint me it would ruin me & make me powerless hereafter to ask any thing for the Indians. . . . I now write to say that you have a herculean task but by Gods help you will have nerve to do it." Some of Bassett's own statements regarding the Indians under his control and the efforts of vicious whites to feather their own nests from government supplies and funds for the several tribes of Chippewa, are among the most valuable papers in the group. Another topic which receives considerable attention is the murder of Hole-in-the-Day.

A wallet containing six miscellaneous cards and papers, which was found among the personal effects of Paul Hjelm-Hansen, the Norwegian-American journalist, has been presented by Miss J. Marie Gronvold of St. Paul. One letter illustrates in interesting fashion the methods adopted by the transcontinental railroads to induce settlers to take homes along their lines. In 1880, this letter shows, the Northern Pacific Railway Company was planning the publication of small pamphlets in Swedish and Norwegian, "embracing terse but practical description of the Country, as to its geographical features, adaptability for cultivation, climate etc., including Minn., Dak., Montana & Washington Try., and in fact all that can be embraced within the space given, that will be of benefit to persons in Scandinavian Countries that are seeking new homes in our Northwest." Hjelm-Hansen was asked to write the pamphlets.

A monologue by Mr. Roe Chase of Anoka, entitled "Hair Buying Hamilton," which relates to the activity of British agents

in spurring on the Indians against the whites of the frontier during the American Revolution, has been received from the author.

About twenty-five volumes, mainly daybooks for the period from 1858 to 1865, left by Franklin Steele, have been given to the society as a supplement to the Steele Papers by Miss Katharine McCollom of Minneapolis, whose father received them from Mr. Steele.

Additions to the society's collection of military objects include two suits worn by Miss Caroline E. Peterson of Manila, Philippine Islands, when in naval service as a yeoman during the World War, presented by Miss Peterson; a sailor's uniform, a hammock and bag, and an Austrian carbine and trench knife, given by Mr. John A. Weeks of Minneapolis; a powder flask, a bullet mould, and several other objects, presented by Mr. C. J. Betleg of Monticello, Iowa; and a hospital sergeant's suit, some dress and service coats, and a helmet and some caps used by a national guardsman at the time of the Spanish-American War, presented by Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul.

A grain cradle, a handmade wooden grain truck and vise, a tin candle mould, a tin candle lantern, a small iron kettle, and several other pioneer objects have been presented to the society by Mr. W. O. Cody of Waseca.

The pioneer was a resourceful individual, accustomed to doing a great many tasks which are taken over today by specialized workmen. For one thing, he was forced by circumstances to be a carpenter, and in many cases he had to make his own tools. An interesting recent addition to the society's museum objects relating to pioneer life is a collection of old-fashioned carpenter's tools, received from Mr. C. J. Betleg of Monticello, Iowa. It includes several edging, tonguing, and grooving planes, one smoothing plane for a curved surface, a gauge, a screw driver, a spoke shave, a brace, and a number of special bits.

To the society's collection of objects illustrating the history of American domestic life have been added several plates of Staffordshire, Wedgewood, ironstone, and Canton ware and some other pieces of china, presented by Mrs. James T. Morris of



Minneapolis; a small horsehair upholstered chair, a marble top center table, and a walnut secretary, given by Mrs. George O'Brien of St. Paul; a framed bouquet of hair flowers, presented by Mrs. Gunda Hemmings of Red Wing, who made it in 1860; a velvet coat and dress skirt of 1872, and an evening dress of 1891, given by Mrs. Julius Heilbron of St. Paul; and a child's silk dress of 1888, presented by Mrs. Hoyt J. Calkins of St. Paul.

A copy of Bishop Baraga's prayer book in the Ottawa language, — *Ottawa Anamie-Misinaigan*, — which was printed at Detroit in 1832 (207 p.), has been presented by Mr. William G. Loye of Minneapolis, a student in the University of Minnesota. Father Verwyst, in his *Life and Labors of Rt. Rev. Frederic Baraga* (p. 132), states that a thousand copies of the prayer book were printed at a cost of \$212. Probably very few of them are now in existence. Another edition was printed in Paris in 1837.

Some eighty valuable books and pamphlets relating to Minnesota education, which were not already represented in the society's library, are included in a collection of 327 miscellaneous items received from the Winona State Teachers College.

Gifts of miscellaneous Swedish-American books, pamphlets, and leaflets, totaling about six hundred items, have been received from Miss Esther Johnson of Minneapolis and Miss Minnie Osmann of St. Paul. Much of this material is of a fugitive sort, very difficult to secure unless collected contemporaneously. A number of Minnesota imprints are included, among them a pamphlet issued in 1875 at St. Paul containing the constitution of the Scandinavian Union, an organization which aimed at united action politically and socially among the Scandinavians.

Among valuable recent library acquisitions are sixty-eight books and pamphlets relating to the United States acquired from two European book dealers. Many are books of description by French and German travelers in America, several of them written with a view to the needs of prospective European emigrants. For students of American history — and especially students of immigration — materials of this type are naturally of great importance. In several of the books Minnesota receives special



attention. For example, in Heinrich Bosshard, *Anschauungen und Erfahrungen in Nordamerika: Eine Monatschrift* (Zürich, 1853), a series of valuable letters appears, including ten written in Minnesota in August and September, 1853, by an intelligent German traveler who published his travel letters in the form of a monthly magazine, which was eventually bound. Karl Andree's *Geographische Wanderungen* (Dresden, 1859) is a two-volume work which includes an interesting section entitled "Der Staat Minnesota am obern Mississippi." An old geography, E. W. von Greipel's *Malte-Brun's neuestes Gemälde von Amerika und seinen Bewohnern* (Leipzig, 1819), is of interest for its account of the Selkirk settlement and a description of the Chippewa Indians, and also for its account of the early Norse voyages to America. A chapter on the Sioux Indians is included in Paul Wilhelm of Württemberg, *Erste Reise nach dem nördlichen Amerika in den Jahren 1822 bis 1824* (Stuttgart and Tübingen, 1835). In J. S. Sondermann, *Die Mission der kirchlichen Missionsgesellschaft in England unter den heidmischen Indianern des nordwestlichen America* (Nurnberg, 1847), are printed German versions of letters and extracts from the diary of A. Cowley, a missionary in the Red River Valley, for 1844 and 1845. Gottfried Fritschel's *Geschichte der christlichen Missionen unter den Indianern Nordamerikas im 17 und 18 Jahrhundert* (Nurnberg, 1870) contains an account of the western missionary activities of the French Jesuits. Considerable attention is paid to the activities of the Know-Nothings and the position of the immigrant in America in La Gracrie, *De la République des Etats-Unis de L'Amerique du Nord* (Paris, 1857). Several books in the collection, such as Theodor Griesinger, *Lebende Bilder aus Amerika* (Stuttgart, 1858), contain interesting analyses of American social institutions and conditions. A chapter on Minnesota in a French encyclopedia published at Paris in 1892 is an interesting compilation; it is found in volume 16 of Elisée Reclus, *Nouvelle géographie universelle*. Taken as a whole these books make an important addition to the society's large library of works of travel and description.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

At the meeting of the American Historical Association and allied organizations, held in Richmond, Virginia, from December 27 to 31, there were as usual many sessions and conferences, each with its appeal to special groups of scholars. Owing to the presence of a considerable number of English historians, much emphasis was given in the program to topics in European history, especially in the medieval period; and since the meeting was held in the capital of the Southern Confederacy many of the papers devoted to American history dealt with Civil War and southern problems. One noteworthy paper of general western interest was a study of "The Persistence of the Westward Movement in the United States," by John C. Parish, which threw important new light upon the westward tendencies of American development after the disappearance of the frontier. One of the features of a meeting of the American Historical Association is the president's address. The death of Woodrow Wilson elevated to the acting presidency of the association Dr. Charles M. Andrews of Yale University, whose address was a review of progress in American historical work during "These Forty Years." At the Conference of Archivists Mr. Robert B. House discussed the problem of caring for American archives and called special attention to the recent losses which have resulted from fires. His paper brought out the importance of the movement both in state and nation for more adequate archives housing. That the movement for archival reform is progressing, however, was shown in a paper on "Archive Legislation, 1921-1923," by George S. Godard. At the Conference of Historical Societies a discussion of "The Museum of History: A Problem" was led by Mr. L. V. Coleman.

The preparation of a dictionary of American biography comparable to the English *Dictionary of National Biography* has been made possible through a gift of a half million dollars from the *New York Times* to the American Council of Learned Societies. A permanent committee of management headed by

Dr. J. Franklin Jameson will select an editor-in-chief for the enterprise and the editorial work will be done in Washington. The dictionary will contain twenty volumes, the first of which is expected to appear within four years.

A thoughtful survey of "Religious Influences in American History," by Carl Wittke, is published in the *University of California Chronicle* for October.

In a volume entitled *Immigration: Select Documents and Case Records* (Chicago, 1924. 809 p.), edited by Edith Abbott, a mass of source material on the history of American immigration is brought together, among the most interesting items being a series of twenty-three documents throwing light upon "The Early Emigrant Ships and Attempted Regulation of Steerage Conditions, 1751-1882."

A plea for historical museums which visualize the past as a continuous development is made in a paper on "The Function of Historical Museums," by Caroline McIlvaine, which is published in the October *Bulletin* of the Chicago Historical Society.

In an important joint report by committees of several historical associations on "Books for Historical Reading in Schools," printed in the *Historical Outlook* for October, some attention is given to local history. "The resourceful teacher," it is pointed out, "will find local history (and sometimes local romance) stimulating alike to himself and his pupils. It is a field where first-hand evidence often proves available and where the pupil's interest has natural roots." It is interesting to note, in this connection, that the English Board of Education, in a *Report on the Teaching of History* (London, 1923), states, "It is essential that in each school attention should be paid to the history of the town and district in which it is situated. This will generally be best done not by giving a separate course of work on local history, but by constant reference to the history of the locality as illustrative of the general history." The point is made that the usual textbook contains nothing but broad generalizations. The history of the locality is to be drawn upon for concrete illustrations.

*Aids to Geographical Research: Bibliographies and Periodicals* is the title of a useful work by John K. Wright, published by the American Geographical Society (1923. 243 p.).

Professor Dixon R. Fox's review of "Outstanding Activities of the Historical Societies 1920-1923" and Mr. William B. Shaw's paper on "The Historical Society Magazines as Viewed by an Outsider" are published in the *Proceedings* of the Nineteenth Annual Conference of Historical Societies for 1923 (Washington, 1924. 27 p.).

"The Historical Society of Today" is the title of an address by Worthington C. Ford which may be read with profit by all workers in the field of state and local history. It is published in a volume of *Addresses Delivered at the Observance of the Centennial of the New Hampshire Historical Society, September 27, 1923* (Concord, New Hampshire. 71 p.).

A valuable and interesting paper on "Copper Mining in the Early Northwest," by Louise Phelps Kellogg, is published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December.

A number of "Beliefs and Tales of the Canadian Dakota" are published by Wilson D. Wallace in the *Journal of American Folk Lore* for January-March, 1923. They are based upon material collected in Manitoba and derived chiefly from Wahpeton Dakota Indians. Particularly interesting is a cycle of spider tales.

An interesting letter written by a Norwegian immigrant in Chicago on June 20, 1843, and relating chiefly to the question of temperance in Norway and in America is published in *Vossingen* for July-October.

A novel dealing with pioneer life among the Norwegian settlers on the Dakota prairies has been published in Norway by Professor O. E. Rølvaag of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, the author of numerous books of fiction dealing with Norwegian-American life. Its title is *I de Dage* [In Those Days].

*Solstad, the Old and the New* is the title of a new novel by James A. Peterson (1923. 344 p.) which has its setting in

Minnesota and the Far West before the Civil War and is centered about the theme of the Norwegian immigrant and his reaction to the American environment.

The annual meeting of the Swedish Historical Society of America was held in the Historical Building on October 12. Papers were read by Mr. Victor Lawson of Willmar on "The First Settlements in the Kandiyohi Region and Their Fate in the Indian Uprising of 1862," and by Mr. Theodore W. Anderson of Minneapolis on the "Early Swedish Pioneers in Kansas." The *Year-book* for 1924, which is reviewed *ante*, p. 58, was distributed to members of the society.

An interesting review of the career of Lewis Cass is given in an article entitled "Detroit's Presidential Candidate," by Milo M. Quaife, published in the *Burton Historical Collection Leaflet* for November. Appended to the article are several Cass letters, hitherto unpublished, one of which, written on April 21, 1831, from Washington, discusses arrangements for the Schoolcraft exploring expedition.

Gossip, anecdotes, tales of curious episodes, brief accounts of individuals and organizations, and miscellaneous matters make up the bulk of a volume entitled *Them Was the Good Old Days: In Davenport, Scott County, Iowa*, by W. L. Purcell (Davenport. 232 p.). The result is somewhat of a hodgepodge, but the student will find in Mr. Purcell's pages much good material illustrative of middle-western social history.

A study of *The Sale of War Bonds in Iowa*, by Nathaniel R. Whitney, has been brought out as a volume in the *Iowa Chronicles of the World War* (1923. 236 p.).

An interesting piece of social history is given in a study of "The Beginnings of Dutch Immigration to Iowa, 1845-1847," by Henry S. Lucas, which appears in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October.

It is announced that the Missouri Historical Society has recently acquired the original sketchbooks of Henry Lewis, the artist some of whose paintings of scenes along the Mississippi River, made in the forties, are reproduced in the volume entitled

*Das illustrierte Mississippthal.* A new edition of this rare work was recently reviewed in this magazine (see *ante*, 5: 446).

An encyclopedia of South Dakota, a compendium of detailed information in a volume of a thousand pages or more, is announced for early publication by Mr. Doane Robinson, secretary of the State Historical Society of South Dakota. The work is "the product of fifty years' industrious gathering of material about Dakota."

"How Our Ancestors Settled in Wisconsin: A Story of the Conglomerate Peoples Composing Our Population" is the title of an article by Mr. Charles L. Curtis, published in the *Wisconsin Magazine* for October, in which special attention is given to the German, Scandinavian, Swiss, Polish, Irish, and Welsh elements in Wisconsin's population.

"Some American Influences upon the Canadian Federation Movement" is the title of a valuable essay by Reginald D. Trotter, published in the *Canadian Historical Review* for September. In his discussion of the situation in the Canadian Northwest the author uses with discrimination a number of documents drawn from the manuscript papers of James W. Taylor, owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The publication of source materials relating to the Riel rebellions in the Canadian Northwest is paving the way for a definitive study of that phase of western history. An interesting document under the title "Louis Riel's Account of the Capture of Fort Garry, 1870" is presented by A. H. de Trémaudan in the *Canadian Historical Review* for June, 1924. It is printed in the French original and in translation, with elaborate annotations.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A tablet commemorating the discovery of the source of the Mississippi River was unveiled at the Minnesota Historical Building in St. Paul on November 5 by the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota. An illustrated lecture on Itasca Park was given by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, an address on Henry R. Schoolcraft was made by Dr. Solon J. Buck, and

the speech of dedication was given by Dr. James K. Hosmer. The tablet, which will be placed later in Itasca State Park, bears the following inscription: "Itasca Lake, source of the Mississippi River, discovered by Henry R. Schoolcraft from the summit of this hill, July 13, 1832. This tablet is placed by the Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota, 1924."

In the *Community Bookshelf* for October, a publication of the Minneapolis Public Library, there is a section entitled "Tales of the Trails." It is explained that under this heading will be presented, from time to time, "glimpses of Minnesota history which the tourist finds of interest." The first installment describes an imaginary tour of the Mississippi from Lake Itasca to the Twin Cities, with explanations of place names and brief historical sketches. The second installment, in the November-December number, tells about Minneapolis, St. Anthony Falls, St. Paul, Red Wing, Frontenac, Wabasha, Winona, and Lake Pepin, including explanations of names and brief résumés of Indian legends.

*A Calendar of Minnesota Government, 1925*, compiled by Esther Crandall, has been issued as number 4 of the *Publications* of the bureau for research in government of the University of Minnesota (62 p.). In the *Calendar* one page is devoted to each week of the year and scheduled events connected with local county and state government are announced. Many anniversaries and other items of historical interest are included. The pamphlet is in fact a political and historical calendar and should serve many useful purposes.

An illustrated lecture entitled "Pictures of Minnesota before the Days of Photography" was given by Mr. E. C. Gale of Minneapolis at the Minnesota Institute of Arts on November 23.

An attractive little booklet, entitled *The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux with the Sioux Indians on the Minnesota River, July 23, 1851* (1924. 20 p.), which has been issued by the Hubbard Milling Company of Mankato, contains a compact and fairly accurate account of the treaty. Its chief value, however, lies in a series of interesting marginal drawings of such subjects as Indians, early explorers, river scenes, trading posts, wigwams,

buffalo, covered wagons, and prominent individuals who were connected with the making of the treaty. The frontispiece is a reproduction in colors of F. D. Millet's painting of the signing of the treaty.

A bronze tablet commemorating the discovery of the Falls of St. Anthony by Father Hennepin was presented to the city of Minneapolis by the Minnesota chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists on October 4. The ceremonies at the unveiling of the tablet, which is located at the east end of the Tenth Avenue Bridge, included an address by Dr. William W. Folwell on the "train of events which brought Father Hennepin to this point on the Mississippi river."

In a series of twenty-one articles which appear in the daily issues of the *Minneapolis Journal* from September 23 to October 13, a "veteran of Minnesota politics" presents rambling reminiscences of some of the major political happenings in the state during the past forty years. The series as a whole seems to have been written as an argument against the primary election and in favor of the old convention system. In developing his theme, however, the author sketches, from a partisan Republican viewpoint, interesting pictures of such events as the presidential preference primary of 1916 (October 4), the Democratic state convention at Duluth in 1904 (October 7), and the Hammond-Lee campaign of 1914 (October 10).

Students and alumni of St. Olaf College joined at Northfield on November 6 in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the college. A feature of the program was a review of the history of the college presented by the Reverend Olaf Lysnes of Clinton, Wisconsin.

The dedication of the new library of the University of Minnesota is fully reported in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for October 30. The building itself is described in an article by Clarence H. Johnston, its architect; Frank K. Walter, the university librarian, discusses "The Library as an Administrative Unit"; and there is an interesting article entitled "Early Beginnings—A History," in which special attention is given to the influence of Dr. William W. Folwell, the university's first



president and first librarian, upon the history of the university library.

A sketch and a portrait of the Reverend Thomas L. Riggs of Ree Heights, South Dakota, who was born at Lac qui Parle in 1847, and who, like his father, the Reverend Stephen R. Riggs, spent most of his life as a missionary among the Sioux, are published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 30.

A sketch of the Reverend Ezekial G. Gear, who came to Minnesota in the late thirties to serve as chaplain at Fort Snelling, is published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 26. The sketch is occasioned by the presentation of a relic of his service, a gold cross, to the woman's auxiliary of the Episcopal church of Minnesota.

A celebration in honor of "Minnesota's great dairy pioneer," Professor Theophilus L. Haecker, was held at the University Farm on January 1, when the new dairy building was named for him — Haecker Hall.

In the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 12, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the return of the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry after the Spanish-American War, incidents connected with that home-coming are recalled. A number of pictures of the arrival of troops in Minneapolis appear with the article.

The 1924 *Annual Review* of the Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars (88 p.) contains, in addition to a brief history of the national organization, a "History of the Department of Minnesota, V. F. W.," by T. M. Thomson, and numerous sketches of posts and individuals.

A state-wide campaign to raise funds for a memorial to Senator Knute Nelson on the grounds of the state Capitol in St. Paul was launched in November.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The sixtieth anniversary celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church of Red Wing took place on October 18 and 19. A brief history of the church is published in the *Red Wing Daily Republican* for October 20.

How Austin became the county seat of Mower County through the theft from Frankford, a rival town, of a tin box containing the county records, is related in an illustrated feature article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 9. The progress of Austin since that event, the completion of its new bridge across the Red Cedar River, and the erection recently of a number of imposing structures in the town were celebrated on Armistice Day.

An account of the pioneer experiences of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Low, among the earliest settlers in Murray County, is published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 30.

On October 15 a memorial chapel, a replica of the old Traverse des Sioux Presbyterian Church, which was erected in the early fifties, was dedicated at the Traverse des Sioux cemetery. The activities of early missionaries in this region, notably of the Reverend Thomas S. Williamson, were recalled in the dedication sermon by the Reverend Maurice D. Edwards of St. Paul, a portion of whose address is printed in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 19.

In few ways is the development of Minnesota more clearly reflected than in the story of its press—a story to which another chapter has been added recently in a "Fortieth Anniversary Number" of the *St. Peter Herald*, issued on October 17. This paper is among the most interesting in the state, for from 1886 to 1904 it was edited by John A. Johnson, who later won fame as governor. A valuable outline of the history of the newspaper, illustrated with a reproduction of the first issue and with portraits of its editors and publishers, occupies a conspicuous place in this issue. An account, by Conrad Peterson, of the growth of Gustavus Adolphus College, which has been located in St. Peter for fifty years, and sketches of local business concerns and manufactures are included. The subject matter is by no means limited to St. Peter, for the issue contains brief histories of neighboring villages, such as Norseland, Eureka, Klossner, and Lafayette; and much attention is given to the development of Nicollet County's "biggest industry"—dairying.

Among the papers presented at a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Duluth on December 15 was one on "Early History of Head of the Lakes," by John A. Bardon. The president of the society, Mr. William E. Culkin, announces in his second annual report that the membership is now 120 and indicates that many valuable historical documents were acquired during the year. In accordance with provisions in the constitution of the society, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Minnesota Historical Society.

At the dedication of Merritt Memorial Park in Duluth on October 26 a bronze tablet was set up to mark the spot where the first church in "Oneota" — now a part of Duluth — stood.

A number of interesting historical papers relating to Stevens County, which were first presented before the Students' Club of Morris and have now been published in the *Morris Tribune*, afford a good example of the possibilities for local historical research which are open to women's clubs and other organizations throughout the state. In the *Tribune* for November 21 is a paper by Mrs. F. A. Hancock dealing with the scenes of Edward Eggleston's story, "The Gunpowder Plot," which are laid in Stevens County on the banks of the Pomme de Terre River. In the issue for December 26 a valuable account of "The First Newspaper of Stevens County" is presented by Mrs. Hancock. The paper in question is entitled *Frontier Business*, and several articles from the first issue in 1876 are reprinted. An excellent account of the Nelson-Kindred Congressional contest of 1882, with special attention to its Stevens County aspects, by Mrs. C. G. Dickey, appears in the *Tribune* for November 28 and December 5.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, which was established in 1849 by the missionary, William T. Boutwell, was celebrated on December 7, 8, and 9. An illustrated history of the church appears with an announcement of the program for the celebration in the *Stillwater Daily Gazette* for December 5.

An old settlers' picnic and home-coming celebration was held at Bloomington on October 7.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank of Minneapolis was marked by the issuance of a small pamphlet which contains historical material on the development of the bank from 1874 to 1924, including a facsimile of the articles of incorporation.

The opening of the Minneapolis Public Library thirty-five years ago is recalled in an interesting article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for December 14. Special attention is given to the career of Miss Gratia Countryman, the present librarian, who has been connected with the library continuously since its opening.

On October 20 the congregation of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding. A brief history of the church and a sketch of the Reverend Stanley B. Roberts, who has been its pastor for twenty-five years, appear in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 5. Another Minneapolis church, the Swedish Tabernacle, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with elaborate programs presented throughout the week of October 12.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, which was organized in 1849 by the Reverend Edward D. Neill, was celebrated on November 30 at the House of Hope Church, with which the earlier congregation was united in 1914. Other St. Paul churches which have observed anniversaries recently are the First Baptist Church, which celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary during the week of October 5; and the First Swedish Lutheran Church, which held special services in commemoration of its seventieth anniversary on October 12 and 13.

